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'Keep close/d' – Nikki Morgan, 2004.

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Women's Studies Association (NZ) Inc.

**WSA (NZ), PO Box 5043, Wellington
www.womenz.org.nz/wsa/**

The Women's Studies Association (NZ) is a feminist organisation formed to promote radical social change through the medium of women's studies. We believe that a feminist perspective necessarily acknowledges oppression on the grounds of race, sexuality, class and disability as well as gender. We acknowledge the Maori people as tangata whenua of Aotearoa. This means we have a particular responsibility to address their oppression among our work and activities.

Full membership of the Association is open to all women. Other individuals may become associate members. Annual membership includes three newsletters per year and inclusion on the wsanz e-list.

Organisations and institutions	\$35
Individuals, medium-high income	\$35
Individuals, low/medium income	\$25
Individuals, low income	\$10
Secondary school pupils	\$5

Women's Studies Journal

The Women's Studies Journal is a biannual peer-reviewed academic journal established by the Women's Studies Association of New Zealand. It is published by a committee of WSA members in association with the University of Otago Press.

The Journal is essential reading for academics with an interest in gender issues, focusing on research and debate concerning women's studies in New Zealand and the Pacific. Issues of the journal are often used as texts in tertiary institutions, as it contains a wealth of resource material.

Submissions

The Editorial Collective welcomes contributions from a wide range of feminist positions and disciplinary backgrounds. The Journal has a primary but not exclusive focus on women's studies in New Zealand and encourages papers which address women's experience, explore gender as a category of analysis, and further feminist theory and debate.

Call for Papers: General Issues

Two issues of the journal are published each year. Contributions for general issues are accepted at any time. Submission guidelines and deadlines for Special Issues on a particular theme are available on the journal's website (www.womenz.org.nz/wsj/). Subscriptions, advertising and distribution are handled by the University of Otago Press. All contributions should be sent to the Coordinating Editor (see page 2).

Call for Papers

Special Issue: Women and Spirituality

The area of women and spirituality (or religion) is a broad theme which is gaining increased attention in scholarly literature. In February 2005 two research symposia on this theme were held at Massey University's Auckland and Palmerston North campuses, centred on the visit to New Zealand of feminist theologian Carol P. Christ. These symposia brought together a fascinating range of speakers and participants from very different backgrounds both within and outside academia.

The idea for this special issue on women and spirituality gained its impetus from these meetings. The papers presented at the symposia revealed the wide range of research currently being undertaken in

this area. The intention of this issue is to cast the invitation more widely and submissions are welcomed from all academic disciplines and from those working in the area of women and spirituality in the community. The Journal has a primary, but not exclusive focus on New Zealand and the Pacific region.

Each submission will be peer reviewed by two reviewers. Editors are Kathryn Rountree (k.e.rountree@massey.ac.nz) and Mary Nash (m.nash@massey.ac.nz).

Contributions should be between 5000 and 8000 words, including tables, notes and references and should use either APA reference format or endnotes. The deadline for submissions is 15 April 2006. All submissions should be sent to the **Coordinating Editor**:

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Editorial

Kia ora koutou. A warm welcome to this special issue of the Women's Studies Journal on Women and Violence.

The call for papers for this special issue generated an overwhelming response, which has provided us with a wealth of information about current interest in issues around violence – and of course some very difficult editorial decisions. We have only been able to include a portion of the contributions we received in this issue – so we are keeping our editorial comments to a minimum. We hope that you will look forward to further issues in which we will continue with some of the themes addressed here.

We would like to offer our thanks to all contributors, especially the Hon. Ruth Dyson, Minister for Women's Affairs, and Professor Jane Ritchie for their commentaries. The Minister for her contemporary update on the Labour government's commitment to women and the eradication of violence in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and Jane Ritchie for her thought-provoking comments on women's violence towards children and society's response to this issue.

The issue covers a wide field, and contributors engage in scholarly reports and discussion around a number of intriguing questions including the relationship between traditional sociological theory and women's accounts of their experiences of abuse; the relationship between sex work and violence, between the spread of HIV and violence; how doctors' talk about intimate partner abuse; how women experience legal interventions based on the Domestic Violence Act (1995); and the law governing women's evidence in rape trials.

The first three articles variously consider women's experiences as victims of violence. Ang Jury discusses Goffman's theory of mortification of the self in relation to women's experiences of domestic violence. Miriam Saphira and Avril Herbert report on violence among underage sex workers in Auckland. Laura McCloskey, Ulla Larsen and Corrine Williams report on the contribution of violence to the spread of HIV-AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. These articles represent the diversity of women's experiences of victimisation across different relationships, social contexts and geographies.

Amy Aldridge and Leigh Coombes have contributed a study

of general practitioners' stories of the difficulties they face with regard to responding to the effects of domestic violence on their women patients. In the following article, Rachael Pond and Mandy Morgan report on women's experiences of lawyers who provide legal interventions – especially protection and custody orders in the aftermath of partner abuse. In the final article, Elizabeth McDonald discusses current rules that are applied to women's evidence in sexual assault cases, the problems that these present for women, and proposals for change. These papers provide some insight into the broader contexts of violence and abuse towards women – especially in relation to service provision/intervention.

While approaching the theme of this special issue from widely divergent positions, these articles all share a common concern with the pervasive and destructive consequences of violence to women's lives across a vast range of social contexts.

We won't ask you to enjoy this issue – but we do hope that it serves to stimulate further debate, research, discussion and interventions towards eliminating violence from women's lives. We also look forward to receiving more articles for future issues – the next special issue on women and spirituality and our general issues. Remember to renew your subscription!

And now a date for your diaries. The WSA conference 2005 will be held in Auckland, on 25–27 November. See you there.

Ang Jury and Mandy Morgan.