



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 1 December 2014

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee**

*Chair: The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

A focus on gender justice in the Indo-Pacific

Independent, not for profit development agency, Oxfam Australia will appear at a public hearing of the Human Rights sub-committee in Canberra tomorrow.

Dr Helen Szoke, Oxfam Australia CEO, will speak at the hearing as part of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into the human rights issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia Pacific region.

Oxfam Australia is a secular international development agency whose vision is of a just world without poverty. The organisation has more than 500,000 supporters in Australia who contribute skills, time and financial support.

Oxfam's Submission to the inquiry stated that, "[a] focus on gender justice is at the heart of all of Oxfam's work. This means recognising the needs and rights of women and girls. It means supporting them to claim their rights and hold leadership roles in order to influence and achieve change. It means women and girls are:

- Participating in the economic, political, social and cultural aspects of their lives;
- Holding positions of leadership;
- Accessing information, services and resources; and
- Participating in decisions that affect their lives."

Issues under consideration by the Human Rights Sub-Committee the inquiry include:

- Violence against women and girls
- Women's leadership
- Economic opportunities for women
- Access to justice
- Education of girls
- Health and reproductive rights

Public hearing: 12:45pm Tuesday 2 December 2014
Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.

Further information on the inquiry is available on the Committee's website at:
www.aph.gov.au/jfadt

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament>

For media comment: contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP via Mr Ross Macdonald on 0417 852 209. For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt.