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3 November 2000

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members,

Submission on International Criminal Court

We are concerned that Australia has signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court without this issue being thoroughly considered by Parliament or the people of Australia. A summary of our concerns are:

1. The establishment of the ICC would involve Australia ceding jurisdiction over its own citizens to an outside body. The War Crimes Tribunal already in existence is empowered to deal with crimes committed during war between countries so it is difficult to see the urgent need for an ICC. There should be far more public information, discussion and debate on this matter; Australia should not cede national sovereignty so lightly.
2. The Treaty establishing the ICC is vague and ambiguous as are many UN Treaties. This paves the way for the ICC to be 'used as an instrument of social engineering, instead of being used only to deal with serious crimes.
3. We are concerned about the feminist bias and ideology that would pervade the Court. Proposals that at least 50% of the judges should be female suggests appointments would be made not on merit but with a gender (feminist) bias in mind. Feminist legal theorists such as Dianne Post are hostile to marriage and religion and can interpret almost anything to be a "gender" crime. See the article on "**The International Criminal Court and Social Engineering**" by Professor Richard Wilkins which has already been sent to you.
4. We would appreciate the opportunity to make a verbal submission at a public open hearing. In our view such hearings are essential.

Babette Francis
National & Overseas Co-ordinator