

Commissioners and Ambassadors Meeting Statement

On 3rd March 2025 Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin convened an unprecedented meeting of Australian Commonwealth Commissioners and Ambassadors, hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

As Australian Commissioners and Ambassadors, we come together to say

No More

No more violence in our homes.

No more violence where we work.

No more violence online.

No more violence in our communities.

Ending violence is critical to the safety and wellbeing of our communities. It affects women, children, men, and gender-diverse people – as well as their families, communities and broader society.

Too many people in our communities are unsafe, often from the men in their lives.

- **1 in 3 women** in Australia have experienced violence by a partner, a known person, or a strangerⁱ.
- The Pacific Islands in our region have some of the highest rates of violence against women – **twice the global average of 1 in 3 women**.ⁱⁱ
- More than **1 in 3 girls** and **1 in 5 boys** experience child sexual abuse.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **120,000** police-recorded assaults in 2023 were related to family and domestic violence^{iv}.
- Sexual violence crimes have reached a **31-year high** in Australia^v
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are **7 times more likely to be killed** due to family violence.^{vi}
- **99.3%** of women seeking support from family and domestic frontline services reported experiencing technology facilitated abuse.^{vii}

The statistics are devastating. We must remember that behind every number is a person, a family and a community living with the impact of harm.

Violence affects all communities, yet some groups are disproportionately impacted, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, children and young people, migrant and refugee women and children, and older women.

Safety is a Right and a Shared Responsibility

Every person deserves to live free from violence. This is a fundamental human right. With that right comes a collective responsibility to ensure safety for all. That responsibility sits with individuals, families, communities, organisations and governments. With all of us.

We must all unite to make our community safe for everyone.

All Australian governments have committed to the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*. In September 2024, National Cabinet made domestic, family and sexual violence an ongoing priority.

The National Plan provides a framework for all aspects of society to work together, drive systemic change and prevent violence. Its success depends on a whole-of-community approach, with individuals, services, businesses and governments working together to create a safer future. We recognise and value the lifesaving work of front-line services.

This is not just a women's issue – **it affects our entire community**. While most people who use violence are men, we must engage men and boys as part of the solution, not just as a problem to be fixed. We need to understand and meet men and boys where they are, ensuring that prevention efforts include education, accountability and cultural change.

Together we must:

Prioritise those who are **disproportionately impacted** by violence, ensuring responses are inclusive, shaped by people with lived experience, and led by the communities most affected.

Stop violence experienced in childhood and help children and young people to heal and thrive. This is the hidden prevention opportunity: addressing the issues faced by **children and young people** by responding to them as victims in their own right.

Tackle **online misogyny and radicalisation** which are fuelling harmful attitudes and increasing the risk of violence.

If we want sustainable change and a reduction in violence, we need to **work more meaningfully with men and boys** in the places they are, and with the systems and organisations that support them.

Strengthen evidence-based prevention efforts, including culturally appropriate, trauma-informed services, recognising the impact of intergenerational trauma.

Embed **safety by design principles** in our systems and processes, asking and addressing the question "*how could these processes and systems cause, or be weaponised to inflict harm?*"

There is Hope in Unity.

Violence is not inevitable. It is preventable.

We are at a turning point. Social division is growing, gender inequality remains entrenched, child wellbeing needs to be prioritised and online spaces are being weaponised.

As Commissioners and Ambassadors, we have made a firm commitment to address this challenge with renewed purpose. **We will listen to those who are most affected by violence. We will carry their voices**, and we will do so at every opportunity.

Together, we can deliver. Together, we say No More.

Signed:



Gwen Cherne
Veteran Family Advocate
Commissioner



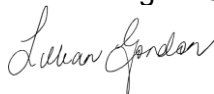
Stephanie Copus Campbell
Ambassador for Gender Equality



Hugh de Kretser
Human Rights Commission
President



Lorraine Finlay
Human Rights Commissioner



Lil Gordon
Acting Commissioner, Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Children and
Young People



Julie Inman Grant
eSafety Commissioner



Jenna Roberts
Domestic, Family and Sexual
Violence Assistant Commissioner



Dr Anna Cody
Sex Discrimination Commissioner



Micaela Cronin
Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence
Commissioner



Chris Evans
Anti-Slavery Commissioner



Robert Fitzgerald
Age Discrimination Commissioner



Anne Hollonds
National Children's Commissioner



Katie Kiss
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Social Justice Commissioner

ⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021-22). [Personal Safety](#), Australia. ABS

ⁱⁱ UN Women Fiji MCO, Pacific Community, and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2020)

ⁱⁱⁱ Mathews B et al. (2023) The prevalence of child maltreatment in Australia: findings from a national survey. *Med J Aust.* 218 (6).

^{iv} Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023), [Recorded Crime - Victims](#), ABS Website, accessed 27 February 2025 (data excludes Vic).

^v Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023), [Recorded Crime - Victims](#), ABS Website, accessed 27 February 2025

^{vi} Bricknell S & Miles H 2024. *Homicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women*. Statistical Bulletin no. 46. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

^{vii} WESNET [Second National Survey](#) of Technology Abuse and Domestic Violence in Australia, Woodcock, et al 2020