



Episode 9: Kyllie Cripps

Transcript

Kyllie Cripps

[instrumental music] My vision for 2050 is not just a dream, it's a promise fulfilled. It's a future where safety is not a privilege but a right, where justice is not reactive but embedded in the way we live, lead, and care for one another.

Female voiceover

Welcome to Voices Towards 2050: Ending Gender-Based Violence, the official podcast series of the Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Commission. Please be aware that this podcast discusses topics related to domestic, family, and sexual violence, which may be distressing for some listeners. Support is available. If you need assistance, please contact 1800RESPECT or reach out to your local support services. Thank you for joining us.

Micaela Cronin

I'm very pleased to welcome my guest on today's episode of the podcast. Kyllie Cripps, thanks so much for joining me for this conversation about the future.

Kyllie Cripps

Thanks, Micaela, for inviting me.

Micaela Cronin

First, I want to start by acknowledging that today I'm on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, where I am very privileged to live, and to pay my deep respects to their elders, past and present elders, for their care of these lands and for their continuing generosity and wisdom. My commitment is to work and live as an ally in this role and always.

I just wanna take a moment to introduce you, Kyllie, and all of the incredible work that you do. Kyllie is a Palawa woman, an Aboriginal Tasmanian sociologist specialising in domestic violence in Aboriginal communities, using an intersectionality in her research to identify causes, service gaps, and really importantly, solutions. Kyllie is one of Australia's leading researchers on indigenous family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. She's a highly academically accomplished and recognised in her field. She's accredited as an author on numerous books, journals, articles, and reports. Kyllie has two bachelor degrees, a master's, and has her PhD. She studied at Harvard University, is an elected fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Kyllie has led multiple major grants and contributed to the field through empirical studies that have defined violence on indigenous terms, and has worked with indigenous communities for over 20 years. Kyllie is a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Steering Committee, who are developing the standalone Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan to address domestic, family, and sexual violence. And, importantly, from my perspective, she is also a poetry writer. In this podcast about building a better future, I'm so pleased to have a chance to talk to you about your vision for the future, Kyllie.

Kyllie Cripps

Thanks, Micaela. I- I'm looking forward to this conversation too [laughs].

Micaela Cronin

So Kyllie, let's start by telling me a little bit about what motivates you to strive for a better future.



Kyllie Cripps

As a proud, um, Palawa woman, I was raised in a family and a community who have taught me to dream big, not just for myself, but for all of us. Their strength, their courage and resilience have laid the foundation for me to know who I am, where I draw strength from, and how to challenge systems and break barriers and create space for change. The NAIDOC theme from a few years ago, because of her, we can capture so much of what drives me. Um, it's the stories of our elders, our nanas, our aunties, our mums, our sisters, our cousins. These have inspired and sustained me and, and they will continue to do so. They are power, love and dignity. Um, and they are voices of change. I carry them with me in every space I enter. And for the time that I've worked in this space, I've worked alongside communities to respond to, to violence. And my research very much centres on their voices, reframing violence through the indigenous lens and seeking real world solutions grounded in care, truth and justice. And what motivates me is the future our elders, um, have imagined, a future where our children grow up proud and safe, where our culture thrives and our communities lead. I walk in the footsteps of those, you know, as I said, dreamed big, fought hard for the opportunities that many of us have since benefited from, including having a, a university education. And I do this work so the next generation can dream even bigger, not letting anything hold them back. That's what motivates me.

Micaela Cronin

What a lovely way to describe it. So the next generation can dream even bigger, Kyllie. I agree with you, I often find the NAIDOC themes very thought-provoking and they stay with me, and I think that's a really lovely one to carry in, in your heart. So if we're thinking about, we know, and you and I have worked as colleagues alongside in terms of the development of the na- the national plan and the standalone plan about our national commitment to end gender-based violence. If all of that work and effort to think about what it is that we can do that will really make a difference, if we can imagine that that's been successful, what, what would your vision for 2050 be? What would it look like?

Kyllie Cripps

I think that that's a really powerful question [laughs] and I've put a lot of thought into thinking about what would that look like. And I think if our national commitment is to end gender-based violence in a generation, then my vision for 2050 is not just a dream, it's a promise fulfilled.

Micaela Cronin

Hmm.

Kyllie Cripps

It's a future where safety is not a privilege but a right, where justice is not reactive, but embedded in the way we live, lead, and care for one another. By 2050, I see a society where women and gender-diverse people are living in full power. They're not only sovereign over their bodies, but self-determining in every aspect of their lives. Sovereignty speaks to, to ownership, um, to autonomy, to walking freely without fear. But self-determination is what ensures that this freedom is lasting. It means having control over how we heal, how we make decisions, how we define safety and justice on our own terms. It's the foundation for real change, led by community, informed by lived experience, and grounded in culture. We get to this future by listening now. You know, listening deeply to those who've been harmed, to those who carry knowledge passed down through generations.

Micaela Cronin

Mm-hmm.

Kyllie Cripps

And to those whose lives demand more than words. They demand meaningful action. Prevention must be our compass. Uh, and action must follow truth-telling. We can no longer wait for systems to catch up. Um, we must lead the way, grounded in that cultural strength and care and collective responsibility. In this future, systems are not just reformed, they are transformed.



Micaela Cronin

Mm-hmm.

Kyllie Cripps

Um, they protect instead of punishing. They amplify voices instead of silencing them. They respond with compassion, resourcing healing rather than demanding resilience. The solutions we create are not imposed from the top down, but shaped by those most impacted, centering culture, kinship, and country. And, you know, if we come back to dreaming about our children, it is about our children growing up knowing love without fear, knowing identity without shame, and knowing power without violence. This vision is possible because we remembered who we are and because we honoured those who came before us and those who have never stopped resisting, never stopped dreaming, and never stopped fighting for justice. So by 2050, we look back and know we did more than imagine a generation, uh, free from gender-based violence. We created it. We lived it into being together. That's what I, I hope is my vision [laughs] realised in 2050.

Micaela Cronin

That's an incredible vision, and it's very powerful, very powerful images that you're describing about what will be different. So if you, if you were able to travel to that 2050 and spend some time there, what questions would you have? What would you want to know? What would you be going looking for that really gave the hints for how did we get there?

Kyllie Cripps

Yeah. A- a- and again, I think, wonderful question. I'd wanna know whether freedom had truly taken root. Not just in policy or language, but in a way people live, love, and lead. I'd been looking for evidence of a genuine shift in attitudes.

Micaela Cronin

Mm-hmm.

Kyllie Cripps

Not only about gender, but about what it means to be in community, to care for one another, to uphold dignity and equity as everyday practices. I'd wanna see that, that women were free in every sense of the word, sovereign over their bodies, safe in their homes, and powerful in decision-making spaces. That their voices weren't just included, but respected and followed, that their leadership shaped agendas, systems, and futures. I'd wanna know that families had learned to nurture rather than harm, and that communities had become safe, healing spaces, places where those impacted by violence were met with compassion, not silence or shame. That standing against violence was no longer a bold act of resistance, but a shared expected responsibility we all carry together. But most of all, I'd want to know that, that we were listening, really listening to people across all parts of society. And that our responses were grounded in care, accountability, and long-term change. Because the vision for women's freedom is never just about individual empowerment. It's about how our systems are transformed, um, how our values and relationships are also transformed so that freedom is possible for everyone.

Micaela Cronin

Mm-hmm. Kyllie, that's so powerful. The way you've connected through from the individual experience of feeling safe through to recognising that requires very whole of society changes of e- attitudes and systems. So, I'm now going to the last question. You now have the ability to make any necessary change from your perspective, from the way that you are approaching thinking about 2050. What's the one thing now, now I know it's not one thing that will change the world-

Kyllie Cripps

[laughs]

Micaela Cronin

-but what's the one thing right now that you would do that would help get us on that track to achieving a violence-free 2050?



Kyllie Cripps

I think the, the one thing that I'd do right now would be to dismantle siloed thinking, to break down the barriers that keep us disconnected, working in fragments rather than as a collective. Too often, our systems operate in isolation, driven by competition and protection of our own patches or our own territories-

Micaela Cronin

Mm-hmm.

Kyllie Cripps

-or fear of change. But if we're serious about creating a future free from violence, we need to commit to working differently, not just on paper, but in practice. So in the 2050 I envisage, we've let go of ego and bureaucracy. We've centred care, collaboration, and community. Women especially, those who have been most impacted, are no longer on the margins. They are free to lead, to speak, to shape agendas that protect our safety and futures. They are sovereign and self-determining over their own bodies and choices, with their wisdom guiding how we respond to harm and how we prevent it together. That future isn't the result of wishful thinking. It's the outcome of deliberate, coordinated effort. It's built on love and dignity and on systems that listen to and learn from one another. It's grounded in relationships, trust, and accountability to community. The change starts now by removing the bias a- and the barriers that prevent us from truly collaborating.

Micaela Cronin

Mm-hmm.

Kyllie Cripps

By shifting, um, from transactional responses to relational ones. By placing care at the centre, not just in our language, but in our policies, practices, and everyday interactions. Because a, a future free from violence is not out of reach-It's possible if we're willing to work together with open hearts, shared purpose, and a deep commitment to each other's dignity and well-being.

Micaela Cronin

Kyllie, I really look forward to continuing to work alongside you for that future. It really... I mean, what I can hear in your words is both hope and care as-

Kyllie Cripps

Mm-hmm.

Micaela Cronin

... some really consistent themes in what you've talked about, but struggle. And this is hard work, and we have to lean into it and really believe that we can make it happen.

Kyllie Cripps

I agree. [laughs]

Micaela Cronin

Kyllie, I've previously had the privilege of listening to you read some of your extraordinary poetry, and I thought, as I mentioned, I would love to finish this podcast today by hearing you read one of your soon-to-be-published poems for us. Would you... Would you read one for us, please?

Kyllie Cripps

Um, so this poem, uh, is a poem talking to the significance of us all working to, to build a system with care. It's called We Build With Care. Policy matters and practice shapes lives. The system we build can hurt, but they can also guide. We've seen the harm when the rules aren't right, when the practice didn't fit and the policies tight. But we've also seen when the work lands true, when the words are shaped by those who knew, when law listens, when systems bend, when change begins with a trusted friend. This is for those who do it well, who sit in circles, who hear what's felt, who know that policy ain't just text, but the weight of



lives of what comes next. It's not easy work to write with care, to ask the questions most wouldn't dare, to walk the line between hope and truth, to carry stories that carry proof. It's easier to rush, to draft from afar, but i- it's better to be slow, to sit where people are. On back verandas, in clinics, in jail, in the places where silence has its own tale. We honour the ones who build with heart, who see community not as a part, but as authors, as architects, as the rightful lead of the plans we need. They are the ones that have felt the tension. They've held the flame. They've listened when others cast blame. They've fought for nuance, for cultural space, and carried reform at a human pace. Because good practice is story-led. It walks beside. It breaks new bread. It's not just a service, it's a stand. It's justice offered with a steady hand. Good policy doesn't speak over, it listens under. It asks who's missing and why they were kept out. It shifts from power to permission, from control to coalition. We say thank you to those who've stood and written the hard things for public good, who've advocated, translated, stood in between, holding both systems and what's unseen. But still we urge, keep walking with us, not ahead, not apart. Keep placing people at the heart. Keep pushing for practice that heals, not harms, for policy made with open arms. Because when it's right, it's life-saving stuff. A law, a policy, a practice that listens, that's enough. A system that doesn't make us beg to belong, but builds with mob where we've been strong all along. This is our way, our voice, our part, together in practice with culture at heart. Thank you.

Micaela Cronin

[instrumental music] Kyllie, your work gives me hope. Thank you for all that you do.

Kyllie Cripps

Thank you, Micaela.

Female voiceover

Thank you for listening to Voices Towards 2050, Ending Gender-Based Violence. Subscribe and join us for future conversations as we work together to achieve a future-free from domestic, family, and sexual violence. To learn more about the commission, visit our website at dfsvc.gov.au. If you need support, contact 1800RESPECT, or call 1800-737-732. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, you can call 13YARN, or 139276. The views expressed in this podcast are those of the guests and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian government or the Commission. [instrumental music]

[End transcript]