



Australian Gender
Equality Council
working for balance

Australian Gender Equality Council calls on the Prime Minister to take Decisive Action

The Australian Gender Equality Council (AGEC) believes all people must be respected and be safe from the threat of violence and sexual harassment.

We supported the March4Justice call upon the Prime Minister, National Cabinet and every elected Member of Parliament to act against gendered violence in the Parliamentary workplace as an example to every other Australian workplace.

We believe our Federal Parliament must be an exemplary workplace and ending gendered violence in Australia starts at the top.

AGEC, like many others, has been shocked and appalled by the reports of behaviors taking place within our parliaments. However we are pleased that people are speaking out in the hope of bringing an end to these unacceptable behaviors.

We are pleased the Prime Minister has acknowledged that these behaviours do not align with his values nor the values of Australians. His acknowledgement that more needs to be done and that we need more women in parliament is welcomed.

We are also pleased the Prime Minister has announced that Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins will lead a review into the workplace culture at Parliament.

AGEC believes it is essential that the Prime Minister now backs these sentiments with decisive and urgent action. Importantly that action includes implementing all 55 recommendations of the Australian Human Rights Commission's Respect@Work report and ratifying the Convention on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

Now is the time to establish a robust and sustainable framework within government for achieving gender equality by re-introducing the Women's Budget statement (accompanying Federal budgets), a gender analysis of all government policies and legislating a Federal Gender Equality Act.

All Australian Parliaments should be gender equal by 2030.

Only by implementing these measures and taking decisive action will we redress Australia's unacceptable gender imbalance and inequity.

AGEC stands ready to assist and advise the government on implementing a comprehensive gender equality program.

For more information, please contact:

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