

MEDIA RELEASE

25th November 2013

Eliminating violence against women will contribute to their long term economic well being

economic Security4Women (eS4W) acknowledges the 25th of November as the International Day for the elimination of violence against women and supports all activities to eliminate this particularly distressing aspect of gender inequality. This day also marks White Ribbon Day and the start of the "16 Days of Activism" that precedes Human Rights Day on 10 December each year.

“economic Security4Women recognises the awareness raising efforts of White Ribbon and supports its activities on the International Day for the elimination of violence against women. We join them in urging men to speak out to end the endemic and structural nature of violence against women, whilst simultaneously urging men to join women in the campaign to stop violence against women in Australia and across the world” said the Chairperson of eS4W, Ms Sandra Cook.

“With our focus on the impact of violence against women and their long term economic security there are two points in particular that our members want to be considered by the White Ribbon organisation and the Australian Government” said eS4W’s Executive Officer, Ms Sally Jope. “The first is the impact of violence against women on their workforce participation and second is the impact of financial abuse in the context of family violence. These both influence women’s current and long term economic security”.

In responding to both of these issues, eS4W suggests the following:

1. Universal workplace rights that include protections against discrimination for victim survivors of domestic or family violence and for victims of sexual harassment and/or bullying in the workplace.
2. Employers to be encouraged to adopt family violence workplace policies
3. Better protections and stronger workplace safety measures for those professions who assist victims and their families especially children.
4. Government support for educational and training programs, particularly through TAFE, that will enable victims of family violence to regain and rebuild necessary skills and confidence.
5. Increase in funding for Legal Aid to allow advice to be provided around financial and property settlement to ensure women are fully informed about financial abuse in the context of family violence and their legal options.

For further details contact: Sally Jope 0423198567