

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

25th November 2014

## **Violence against women is the distressing result of gender inequality**

economic Security4Women (eS4W) acknowledges the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 December 10 each year.

"As an alliance of women's organisations we recognise the awareness raising efforts of White Ribbon and support its activities on the International Day for the elimination of violence against women" said the Chairperson of eS4W, Ms Sandy Cook.

"We join them in urging men to speak out to end the widespread 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"

"With a focus on the impact of violence against women on their long term economic security there are two points that members of economic Security4Women want to be considered by the members of White Ribbon and the Australian Government" said the Executive Officer, Ms Sally Jope.

"Firstly, the impact of violence on women's workforce participation and secondly, the impact of financial abuse in the context of family violence. They both influence women's current and long term economic security".

In response to both of these issues and as a measure to increase women's workforce participation, eS4W suggests the following:

- Universal workplace right to protection against discrimination for women experiencing violence, sexual harassment and/or bullying in the workplace.
- Employers to be encouraged to adopt family violence workplace policies
- Better protections and stronger workplace safety measures for those professions who assist women experiencing violence and their families especially children.
- Government support for educational and training programs, particularly through TAFE, that will enable women experiencing violence to regain and rebuild necessary skills and confidence.
- 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.

### **Media contact**

Sally Jope, Executive Officer M0423198567 [executiveofficer@security4women.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@security4women.org.au)