

Male Parliamentarians for the Elimination of Violence against Women (MPEVAW)
Communiqué,
24 November 2010
Canberra, Australia

We, the Male Parliamentarians for the Elimination of Violence against Women (MPEVAW), a Sub-Committee of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (PGPD), held an inaugural meeting on 24 November 2010.

We discussed the pervasive and appalling rates of violence against women that are reported around the world and noted that in Australia:

- ❖ 1 in 3 women and girls in Australia have been the victim of physical violence since the age of 15
- ❖ Almost 1 in 5 women in Australia will be the victim of sexual violence in her lifetime
- ❖ Up to 25% of young Australians have seen their mother or stepmother physically or sexually assaulted¹

Further, we, the Sub-Committee members discussed and recognised the exceedingly high costs, both financial and social, that this ongoing problem presents. Economic analysis puts the cost of violence against women at AUD\$13.6 billion each year and estimates that this will increase to \$15.6 billion each year by 2021 if no extra measures are taken.² This estimates the costs related to a full range of the impact of violence including intergenerational harm and emotional and physical damage to the victim and the victim's loved-ones.

We, the Sub-Committee further discussed and recognised the efforts of Government, past and present, in working towards the elimination of violence against women and girls and the many civil society organisations, NGOs, private sector programs and community-led initiatives that are addressing the issue of violence against women and girls around Australia.

The discussion culminated in agreement that this situation was unacceptable. Further, we, the members of the Sub-Committee recognised that we have an undeniable responsibility to address this problem: as men, as community role models, and as national policy makers.

We, the Members have committed to the following actions, as a starting point for our contributions in addressing violence and in working toward its elimination:

¹ The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and Their Children. "Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2009-2021-A Snapshot." March 2009.
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/violence/np_time_for_action/snapshot_summary/Documents/A_Snapshot.pdf p. 3.

² The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and Their Children. "The Cost of Violence Against Women and Their Children." March 2009.
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/violence/np_time_for_action/economic_costs/Documents/VAWC_Economic_Report.PDF p. 6

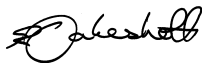
1. Take the White Ribbon Pledge: not to commit violence, not to condone violence and not to stay silent about violence;
2. At least once in the next six months, discuss the issue of violence against women with a friend or family member and highlight the important role that men play in bringing about change on this issue;
3. At least once in the next six months, raise awareness on the issue within our constituency;
4. At least once in the next six months, meet with a community group within our constituency to discuss and support work they do around the elimination of violence against women;
5. At least once this year, make a speech, put a question on notice, ask a question during Senate Estimates, or otherwise use our position as national policy makers to push for better implementation, monitoring and/or outcomes for the elimination of violence against women.

Further, as Members of this Sub-Committee, we agree to support the ongoing work of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development on the issue of elimination of violence against women and girls (VAWG) by:

1. Participating in, and where possible, contributing to, the Parliamentary Roundtable Hearing on Gender-based Violence in the Pacific—to be held in the first half of 2011;
2. Attending at least 2 meetings of the Sub-Committee in the lead-up to the Roundtable and report to the larger Parliamentary Group on the discussions of those meetings where possible;
3. Sending a representative to the meetings of the Asia Pacific Regional Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians for the Elimination of Violence against Women, convened by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development;
4. Supporting the creation of a toolkit for the Regional Male Parliamentarian Standing Committee on effective advocacy on this issue of violence against women and girls;
5. Working to create a long-standing action plan for the MPEVAW.



Mal Washer
Co-Convenor



Rob Oakeshott
Co-Convenor



Senator Birmingham
MPEVAW Member



Steven Ciobo, MP
MPEVAW Member



Kelvin Thomson, MP
MPEVAW Member



Ken Wyatt, MP
MPEVAW Member



John Hyde, MLA (WA)
MPEVAW Member



John Pandazopoulos, MLA (VIC)
MPEVAW Member



The Hon Ian Hunter, MLC (SA)
MPEVAW Member

24 November 2010