

Seven Calls to Action to End Gendered Violence

1

A coordinated, whole-of-government approach to sexual, domestic and family violence policy in NSW

The current approach to the prevention of sexual, domestic and family violence is siloed across NSW Government, with over seven departments and at least ten NSW government strategies. We call for an integrated approach with parliamentary oversight. Additionally, we call for a lived expertise advisory group to the NSW Government, increased transparency, quality standards for specialist services and a whole-of-government risk assessment framework.



2

Commit to intersectional primary prevention approaches to end gendered violence and promote gender equality

Violence against women, children and LGBTIQ+ people is preventable, and research demonstrates that gender inequality is the key driver of sexual, domestic and family violence. The NSW Women's Alliance are calling for a NSW Primary Prevention Plan to promote gender equity and end sexual, domestic and family violence using an intersectional approach. We call for a minimum of \$10 million per year dedicated to delivering respectful relationships education and a minimum of \$10 million per year dedicated to other evidence-based primary prevention initiatives under the plan.

3

Immediate and long-term supports for people experiencing and recovering from sexual, domestic and family violence

The NSW Women's Alliance is calling for an increase in funding to the specialist domestic and family violence sector by a minimum of \$133.55 million per year so people experiencing and recovering from sexual, domestic and family violence have the supports they need to heal. We call for the introduction of flexible support packages so that victim-survivors have flexible access to money they need to access safety, and an increase in funding for specialist children's and young people's services. We call for all 55 recommendations from Respect@Work report to be implemented in NSW.

4

Safe and appropriate housing for everybody experiencing and recovering from sexual, domestic and family violence

Sexual, domestic and family violence is the single largest driver of homelessness for women and children. The NSW Women's Alliance want to ensure all victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, no matter their age, background or income can access a safe home. We are calling for the NSW Government to fund long-term, safe housing, including \$2,6 billion annually for 5000 new social housing dwellings per year to house the tens of thousands of people on wait lists, to increase transitional housing by 50% and to increase the percentage of affordable housing in new developments.

5

Reform legal systems and policing for people experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence

People experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence are more likely to have multiple and complex legal issues. The NSW Women's Alliance are calling for improvements to policing which ensure people experiencing violence can access consistent and safe responses anywhere in NSW. We recommend a safe, phased and transparent approach to implementing coercive control legislation. We call for the NSW Government to fund improvements to courts so they are safer for people who have experienced sexual, domestic and family violence and for increased access, transparency and accountability to the Victims Support Scheme.

6

Enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to lead change towards ending sexual, domestic and family violence in their communities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience sexual, domestic and family violence at three times the rate of non-Indigenous women. The NSW Women's Alliance supports recommendations from the Domestic Violence NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Steering Committee to make self-determination central and seek the expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to design responses which will achieve successful outcomes in Aboriginal communities. Other recommendations include increased accountability and transparency of government actions and policing and a Truth and Justice Commission in NSW.

7

Develop and implement a workforce development plan for the specialist sexual, domestic and family violence sector.

One in four workers in community service organisations in NSW are aged 55 or over and approximately half of the staff will be of retirement age by 2027. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the issues behind an under-resourced sector as demand has increased while workers have been stretched thin, facing a high risk of burnout. The NSW Women's Alliance is calling for a thorough workforce development plan incorporating the training needs of the current sector as well as increasing the number of trained staff, including people with lived expertise and Aboriginal specialist workers.

