



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 5 March

Women from all backgrounds have the right to live free from violence

The Harmony Alliance has today welcomed the strong funding commitments announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, the Minister for Women, the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, and the Minister for Families and Social Services, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, as part of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

The Chair of the Harmony Alliance, Ms Maria Dimopoulos, welcomed the continued high-level commitment of the Government to ending violence against women, and in particular, the announcement of prevention initiatives aimed at culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

“Women from migrant and refugee backgrounds are less likely to seek assistance in situations of family violence due to compounding barriers”, outlined Ms Dimopoulos. “In order that these measures reach women from migrant and refugee communities, we hope they will include specific and tailored supports.”

Ms Dimopoulos also welcomed additional funding for prevention activities, frontline services, including training for health workers, and providers of safe places for those fleeing domestic violence.

She emphasised, however, that this funding must be accompanied by a clear strategy to help women on temporary visas out of the cycle of violence. “We need a plan to reduce the unnecessary burden placed on these services by a lack of longer-term supports to assist women on temporary visas experiencing violence.”

“We all agree, violence against women is a scourge on our nation. We must fight to ensure that it does not affect anyone in our country.”

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The Harmony Alliance is one of the six National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government to promote the views of all Australian women, to ensure their voices are heard in decision-making processes. Our purpose is to provide a national inclusive and informed voice on the multiplicity of issues impacting on experiences and outcomes of migrant and refugee women, and to enable opportunities for women from migrant and refugee backgrounds to directly engage in driving positive change.