

Factsheet

Building
Great
Communities

For a fairer NSW

The NSW Women's Alliance – a group of state-wide and peak organisations working with women, families, children, young people and communities impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence.

Members include

- Domestic Violence NSW
- Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia
- Women's Health NSW
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service NSW
- Women's Legal Service NSW
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)
- Youth Action
- People with Disability Australia
- ACON
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association NSW
- No To Violence
- The Women's Services Network (WESNET)

Policy area

Sexual, domestic and family violence.

Introduction

Every person has the right to be safe and to live free from violence. This includes every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer person and every person with disability.

A good government is accountable to specialist workers and the wider community for ensuring that every person experiencing, or who has experienced, sexual, domestic and family violence is supported to heal, has a safe home and can access justice.

Problem/Issue

Before the age of 15, one in six girls and one in nine boys are physically or sexually abused. From the age of 15, one in four women experience violence by a current or previous partner and one in five women are sexually assaulted or threatened.

In Australia, women are eight times more likely to experience sexual violence by a partner than men and nearly three times more likely to have experienced domestic and family violence than men.

Services are not funded enough to give immediate and ongoing support to every person experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence. In particular, women with disability, LGBTIQ and CALD people and children and young people are falling through the gaps.

Domestic and family violence is currently the leading cause of homelessness. Every person experiencing domestic and family violence should have the choice and support to safely stay in their homes and to access safe crisis and long-term housing.

Services are not funded enough to give every person who has experienced sexual, domestic and family violence the legal, social and financial support they need to access justice. Courts are not always safe and NSW Police sometimes do not respond appropriately to all reports.

The ongoing impacts of colonisation and gender inequality intersect to drive violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. First Nations' Peoples are best placed to lead change to end violence against women and children in their communities.

The NSW government should make preventing and ending sexual, domestic and family violence a priority. It should act on the advice of experts and improve service and system responses to ensure every person experiencing violence receives a quality response.

Solution

The NSW Women's Alliance calls on political parties to make NSW 'A Safe State' by implementing 49 recommendations to prevent and end sexual, domestic and family violence.

The recommendations are made across six priority areas:

1. Create cultural change to prevent violence and promote gender equality
2. Provide immediate and ongoing support for people experiencing violence
3. Ensure people experiencing violence have a safe home
4. Ensure people experiencing violence can access justice safely
5. Enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to lead change to end violence
6. Be accountable to specialist workers and the wider community

For additional information – key contact:

Safe State website | www.safensw.org.au

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