

new
rights
union
might
winning
fighters

**women's rights
at work conference
fri 5 sept 2025**



WE ARE UNION

AustralianSuper



am

8:15

Registrations

9:00

Conference Open

Wil Stracke, Assistant Secretary, Victorian Trades Hall Council

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Solidarity Statement, Diversity Statement
- Housekeeping

9:30

Minister's Address and Welcome

Natalie Hutchins MP, Minister for Women, Minister for Treaty and First Peoples

9:45

Yoorrook Justice Commission and our Path to Treaty

Deputy Chair Sue-Anne Hunter, Wurundjeri and Ngurai Illum Wurrung woman and Yoorrook Justice Commissioner

Yoorrook Justice Commission's findings and recommendations. How union members can play a vital role in supporting meaningful solidarity in their workplaces and communities and the path to Treaty for Victoria.

10:30

Morning Tea in the ETU Ballroom

10:50

Address from Confederation of Trade Unions-Myanmar

Phyo Sandar Soe, Assistant General Secretary

11:00

Panel 1: Union women fight! Using our new rights.

A feminist look at recent, union-won, legislative reforms and how we can use them to fight for and win more power, respect and conditions at work.

- **Ama Somaratna**, National Legal Officer, Transport Workers' Union
- **Phillipa Balk**, Assistant Branch Secretary, Australian Services Union Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities and Services Branch

11:45

Session 1 Workshops

1. The Right to Disconnect: *Improving work/life balance for working women*

With **Jessica Dawson-Field**, Employment Special Counsel, Maurice Blackburn

3. Super for Women: *How working women benefit from changes to superannuation*

With **Michelle Kelada**, Education Manager, Australian Super

2. Delegate Powers: *New rights for delegates and the union women using them to build power at work*

With **Lisa Alcock**, Project Industrial Coordinator, VTHC and **Sara Sujansky**, Medical Lab Scientist and member, Medical Scientists Association of Victoria

4. Secure Work: *New rights for casual workers to access casual conversion, and the importance of this for young people and women*

With **Young Workers Centre** and **United Workers' Union**

pm

12:45

Lunch in the ETU Ballroom

1:30

Panel 2: Union women lead! Women HSRs to the front

The importance of women's leadership at work and of women stepping up as Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) to create safe workplaces.

- **Gia Nowill**, Delegate and HSR, Rail, Tram & Bus Union
- **Chloe Mackenzie**, Delegate and HSR, National Tertiary Education Union
- **Mary MacGregor**, Delegate and HSR, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
- **Anna Kenna**, HSR, Australian Services Union Vic/Tas Authorities and Services member

2:15

Panel 3: Union women win! Fixing historic gender undervaluation

Historic gender undervaluation in feminised industries, the importance of addressing it, and the new laws campaigned for by unions that have allowed us to challenge it.

- **Louise de Plater**, Senior National Industrial Officer, Health Services Union
- **Sam Holmes**, Medical Scientist and Delegate, Medical Scientists Association of Victoria
- **Maojing Chen**, Early Childhood Teacher and Project Officer, Australian Education Union

3:00

Session 2 Workshops

1. Solidarity Has No Borders: *International solidarity and organising for equality and justice*
With **Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA**

2. Story of Self: *Personal narrative training for union activists*

With **Victorian Labour College** (VTHC Training)

3. Protect, Support, Defend LGBTQIA+ Unionists: *End workplace discrimination*
With **Independent Education Union**

4. It's For Every Body: *Winning reproductive health leave and flexibility*

With **VTHC Women's Team**

4:00

Solidarity Hour

1. Hold the Line
Line Dancing Class

2. Stitch in Solidarity
Crafting Class

3. Feminist Hall Tour
Women's tour of Trades Hall

4:55

Group Photo

5:00

Conference Close

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WRAW notes:

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