

Media Release



25 November 2019 / Media contact: Liddy Clark 0403 542 411

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Generation Equality – Respect and Representation

Monday 25 November marks the start of the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* for 2019.

Since 1991, the 16 days between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November) and Human Rights Day (10 December) have been recognised around the world as an opportunity to promote the work being done to prevent violence against women and call for action to end gendered violence.

Local governments across Victoria will hold events throughout the 16 days supported by Respect Victoria, with the theme *Call it Out*. For the full calendar of events, click [here](#).

VLGA Chief Executive Officer Kathryn Arndt is a member of the Victorian Ministerial Council on Women's Equality. Ms Arndt said, "In Victoria, we have 72 of 79 councils that have adopted the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter."

"This number reflects the importance of gender equity as an embedded and 'lived' principle throughout all aspects of council business and culture."

"One of the key principles of the Charter is gender equity – that women have a right to be equally represented at all levels of decision-making."

"This is a critical issue in preventing violence against women. One of the key drivers of violence against women is gender stereotyping and the more women we see in leadership roles, the more that stereotyping is challenged."

VLGA President Cr Lambros Tapinos said, "The role that councils play in the prevention of violence against women in their communities is an ongoing one."

"From community awareness to primary prevention and capacity building, councils are constantly working to end gendered violence and promote gender equality."

"During the *16 Days of Activism* in particular we recognise this important work and will promote it through social media and other forums."

The VLGA is committed to supporting councils in their actions to end gender-based violence and promote equal representation in decision-making roles. Victorian councils have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the principles of gender equity, diversity and active participation in local government and community by reaffirming their status as signatories to the Women's Charter.

Councils can call the VLGA on 9349 7999 for more information.

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Respect Victoria will host the 2019 **WALK against FAMILY VIOLENCE** on Monday 25 November 2019
12:00pm to 1:30pm

#callitout and #16dayscampaign

ENDS: