



## Media Release

### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

Australian Women Against Violence (AWAVA) is the new Commonwealth funded National Women's Alliance focused on combating all forms of violence against women. In 1999 the United Nations declared November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women with the aim of inviting the organisation of activities designated to raise public awareness. Women's activists have marked 25 November as a day against violence since 1981 marking the brutal assassination in 1960 of the three Mirabel sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders from Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo.

November 25<sup>th</sup> is also White Ribbon Day. AWAVA supports White Ribbon Day which urges men to speak out against violence against women. White Ribbon Day was established by men on the second anniversary of one man's massacre of fourteen women in Montreal. AWAVA calls on all men to step forward speak up and join the campaign to stop the endemic violence against women and their children in Australia and across the world.

### **Proposed changes to the Family Law Act**

AWAVA calls for contributions to the submission to the Family Violence Bill.

AWAVA will be preparing a submission to the Attorney-General and the Australian Law Reform Commission on the Family Violence Bill tabled for public consultation.

If you wish to contribute your views to AWAVA's submission please contact us at [info@awava.org.au](mailto:info@awava.org.au)

The submission will be developed within a framework which maximises the safety of women and their children and which reflects a sophisticated understanding of domestic and family violence in Australian society. You can find the proposed changes and other details at [www.ag.gov.au/familyviolencebill](http://www.ag.gov.au/familyviolencebill)

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