



MEDIA RELEASE

International Women's Day 2013

“A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women”

“We need to keep our promise to women and children who are victims or survivors of any form of violence against women, to end that violence. Globally, nationally, locally we must take responsibility, each and every one us, and commit to speaking out against violence and changing attitudes and behaviour that allow it to continue unabated. The levels of violence are unacceptable, we are facing a global pandemic, we must act now.” Julie Oberin, Chair of AWAVA

AWAVA will be joining hundreds of preventing violence against women sector organisations from across the globe at this year's United Nations Commission for the Status of Women in New York. The 57th session is focussing on the *Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*. AWAVA's focus will be on helping to negotiate outcomes that can make a real difference in ending violence against women. AWAVA has a delegation of experts from across the violence against women sector that will be sharing knowledge, good practice, resources and expertise from Australia and learning from other countries.

Julie Oberin says: *“AWAVA will be partnering with international organisations to discuss the power of the feminist movement and to encourage the preventing violence against women sector to ‘think big’ and demand what women and children deserve - a convention to end violence against women and girls.”*

Back in Australia, AWAVA will be joining forces with the Twittersphere to push to get #endvaw trending on Twitter on International Women's Day, Friday 8 March.

“If we're to succeed in ending violence against women, we need to be able to talk about it, to challenge attitudes that condone violence and to work out how we address gender and other social inequalities that allow violence against women to continue. We want people to join us on Twitter using #endvaw to get those difficult conversations started, so we can start to make a real difference.” Amy Blain, AWAVA Program Manager

7 March 2013

Background

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)

AWAVA is the Commonwealth-funded National Women's Alliance focused on addressing all forms of violence against women and girls.

AWAVA's delegation for the 57th Session of the Commission for the Status of Women:

Julie Oberin	Julie is the Chair of AWAVA and WESNET (Women's Services Network) and will be heading the AWAVA Delegation
Fiona McCormack	Fiona is the CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic), the peak body for domestic violence services for women and children
Dorinda Cox	Dorinda is the co-opted member for Indigenous issues, Australian National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV). Dorinda is an Executive Member of AWAVA
Aimee McVeigh	Aimee is a Principal Solicitor at the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal & Advocacy Service in Queensland, which is a member of AWAVA's Advisory Group member, Women's Legal Service Australia
Margaret Augerinos	Margaret is the Women's Services Network representative on the AWAVA Advisory Group and an Executive Member of AWAVA
Tracy Howe	Tracy is the CEO of the New South Wales Women's Refuge Movement (NSW WRM)
Samantha Bowden	Samantha is the Northern Territory representative for the Australian National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV).

For further information:

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