

MEDIA RELEASE

One Billion Rising

This Friday, on the 14th of February 2014, women, girls, men and boys across globe will rise up, speak out, and dance to proclaim a resounding NO to the violence and abuse experienced by 1 in 3 women across the globe. One Billion Rising is the campaign that was started by Eve Ensler as a call to action in light of the alarming UN statistic that 1 in 3 women around the world will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With our world's population at 7 billion, this figure currently stands at a staggering one billion plus women and girls.

In 2013, "[one billion activists in 207 countries came together to strike, dance, and rise to end violence against women and girls](#)" and this year over 30 One Billion Rising events are planned all across Australia. In Melbourne, the event will focus on the theme of 'Rising for justice' – bringing attention to experiences of women and girls "[as they try to navigate complex legal and political systems in their struggle to overcome violence and exploitation](#)". In Canberra, the Australian National University will host a panel discussion "[to explore solutions to the unacceptable statistics surrounding violence against women](#)". In Hobart, a Flash mob will rise on the lawns of Parliament demanding an end to violence against women and girls and in Adelaide, people will celebrate and dance together to 'break the chain'.

Today is a day of optimism and hope. The Australian Women Against Violence (AWAVA) welcomes women and girl's leadership of and participation in such important campaigns to raise awareness of the nature, prevalence, and consequences of gender-based violence. We especially welcome and endorse the theme 'rising for justice'. We agree with [The National Plan to Reduce the Violence against Women and their Children 2010-22](#) that "no government or group can address this problem alone" and firmly recognise that the requisite collective efforts to end gender-based violence must be accountable to women, promote women's empowerment and social and gender equality, and must increase perpetrators' accountability regarding their use of violence against women.

As women come forward and share their stories today- their narratives of resilience, strength, as well as their pain and hardship, AWAVA believes that now more than ever we as a society must support women in their continuing attempts to make the personal political and we must also support grassroots activists and advocates in their longstanding efforts to break the silence that surrounds domestic and family violence, sexual abuse and assault.

AWAVA asks you all to **Rise and Dance** and as you do so, let us together celebrate how far we have come, let us acknowledge and reflect how far there is still to go, and let us renew our collective efforts to eliminate gender-based violence.

In Solidarity!