

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Morrison,

As the regional leaders for gender equality in Barwon South West, we write to you today in the hope that you will bring the diverse, yet united voices of our local women into your party room and lead change for a safe and equal Australia, starting within our federal parliamentary system.

The events of 2021, that shone a light on the Australian Parliament falling short of expectations in the community, with high profile incidents of sexual harassment, gender-based bullying and a toxic culture working against the election, participation and advancement of women, have not been forgotten.

In 2022, the expectation on parliamentarians to take action is higher than ever, with full knowledge that the tools to create the change exist. Advancing gender equity and preventing gendered violence is a matter of national urgency and can only be achieved if we all work together – but it starts from the top. Our Parliaments must be exemplary workplaces. Decision makers and elected people in positions of power who make laws should not be perpetrators of gendered violence, should not cover up violence or harbour perpetrators or abuse their power without consequence.

We continue to stand in solidarity with the March4Justice movement, committed to making Parliaments safe and equal and closing the gender gap in legislation, policy, services and budgetary funding.

We urge you to endorse the following demands of the March4Justice:

1. Full implementation of the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Set the Standard: Report of the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces* recommendations and framework for action.
2. Full independent investigations into all cases of gendered violence and timely referrals to appropriate authorities. Full public accountability for findings.
3. Full implementation of the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Respect@Work: report of the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces 2020* recommendations
4. Lifting public funding for gendered violence prevention from 1% to world's best practice standards of 9-12% of the Federal Budget

The demands do not seek to cover all the ways Australian women are disadvantaged – at work, at home and in the community. Instead, they are signposts to the strategic work we must do together to fast-track gender equality and justice outcomes.

In addition to these demands, we call for the Federal Government to recognise and address the complexity of gender injustice for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from

culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women living with a disability and women who identify as LGBTIQ+.

In a time where COVID has shone a light onto and amplified the existing inequalities within our society, these actions provide you with the opportunity to leave a positive and lasting legacy for the betterment of your constituents.

Yours faithfully,

Emma Mahony (Pronouns she/her)

Chief Executive Officer

Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West

Working on the land of the Peek Whurrong people of Eastern Maar Nations