

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia prioritise preventing violence against women and their children

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) is taking a lead role in preventing violence against women, joining Our Watch to encourage all community members to play their part.

Our Watch has partnered with FECCA to initiate discussions on supporting and promoting equality among migrant and refugee women, through a panel discussion at the FECCA 2015 National Biennial conference.

"With our panel of speakers, we aim to make it clear that everyone in the community, from sporting clubs to workplaces, has a role to play in reducing violence against women in Australia," said Our Watch Chief Executive Officer and panel member, Paul Linossier.

"All women and children, regardless of cultural identity, ethnicity, religion or language, have the right to live without the fear or reality of violence," he said.

"Understanding the link between gender inequality, gender stereotyping and violence against women is crucial if we are to reduce violence against women."

"Women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities can face specific additional challenges."

"In addition to gender discrimination, they can experience discrimination on the basis of skin colour, religious affiliation, ethnic origin and other identity characteristics such as dress codes. The intersection of these factors can compound the risk, experience and impact of violence," Mr Linossier said.

Charlie King, Our Watch board director, ABC sports commentator and founder of the [NO MORE campaign](#) against domestic violence, will be joining the panel, where he will encourage attendees to use their spheres of influence to promote and model gender equality and non-violence.

"Encouraging people to think about their position in the community and what they can do to prevent violence places the onus on each and every one of us," said Mr King.

"Sporting clubs and organisations, for example, bring together large numbers of people, and provide a ready-made environment to promote women's participation and opportunities. These clubs and organisations can help eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence-supportive attitudes."

The [FECCA 2015 National Biennial conference](#), *Multiculturalism in Action: Building a better future for all Australians*, will be held in Sydney from 5-6 November 2015.

Join the conversation at the FECCA Conference by following the hashtag #2015fecca.

Media contact

For enquiries or further information: Joanna Cooney, Our Watch, phone 03 8692 9512, email Joanna.Cooney@ourwatch.org.au. FECCA Office, (02) 6282 5755, email media@fecca.org.au.

*If you cover this story, or any story regarding violence against women and children, please include the following tagline:

"If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit 1800RESPECT.org.au. In an emergency, call 000. For more information about a service in your state or local area download the DAISY App in the App Store or Google Play."

ABOUT OUR WATCH

Our Watch's (previously the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children) purpose is to raise awareness and engage the community in action to prevent violence against women and their children.

Our Watch was conceived of and brought into existence in 2013 by the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Victoria. The Northern Territory, South Australian, Tasmanian and Queensland governments have also since become members of the organisation.

Our Watch's work derives from the government's commitment to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 – 2022* and gives expression to many of the activities in the *Second Action Plan 2013–2016 – Moving Ahead*.