

## **16 DAYS IN WA TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

*Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)** [2.07 pm]: I rise to inform the house that this Sunday, 25 November, is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It also marks the start of the McGowan government's campaign 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence against Women. Campaigns like 16 Days in WA are important tools that contribute to community awareness about the prevention of family and domestic violence, as well as community engagement to bring about positive change.

It is concerning to know that Western Australia still has the second highest rate in Australia of reported physical and sexual violence perpetrated against women, yet fewer than 20 per cent of women who experience violence from an intimate partner reported the most recent incident to the police. The McGowan government recognises that we cannot address this problem alone—everyone needs to play their part, from government, to business, to community services and individuals.

That is why the key message for this year's 16 Days in WA campaign is: together we can stop violence against women. The campaign is about all of us having a role to play to change the conversation that allows violence against women to go unchallenged. It can be as simple as challenging or calling out aggressive or demeaning behaviour; understanding where to go to get support for someone experiencing violence, whether a family member, friend or work colleague; or starting a conversation about respect with the children and young people in our lives.

I encourage community members, industry and sector leaders, fellow members of Parliament and individuals who want to make a difference to wear something orange—the campaign colour—on 25 November; to use our hashtags on social media: #StopTheViolence, #16DaysinWA, #ViolenceIsNotOK, and #ChangeTheConversation; and to be a positive influence in your community, your family and your relationships.