

# Western Interfaith Collaboration: Building Equality and Respect

2017 – 2021: Summary and  
Recommendations Report



# Acknowledgments

The *Western Interfaith Collaboration: Building Equality and Respect* working group acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, the people of the Kulin Nation, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

## Executive summary

The Western Interfaith Collaboration: Building Equality and Respect (the working group) was established in the Western Region of Melbourne in 2017. It included representation from Community Health Services, Interfaith Networks, Local Governments and Women's Health Services to deliver gender equity and primary prevention projects supporting faith communities.

The working group's purpose was to engage with faith leaders and faith communities, to raise awareness and build leadership capacity in recognising, responding to, and preventing violence against women. Specifically, it focussed on primary prevention strategies to eliminate:

1. Condoning of violence against women
2. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's decision-making and independence in public and private life
3. Rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity
4. Male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women

Drawing on the strengths, knowledge and expertise of network members and their organisations, and using a community development approach, the group created a strong partnership across the West to progress its purpose.

Between 2017 and 2021 the working group engaged faith leadership and faith communities on a range of initiatives that have:

- Raised awareness and understanding of gender inequality as a driver of violence against women
- Increased visibility of healthy masculinity within faith communities
- Explored how faith communities can appropriately recognise & respond to family violence within faith communities and how to refer to local services for support

In early 2020, prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, all the stakeholders gathered for a facilitated planning session with Helen Rodd, hosted by Hobsons Bay City Council. The session was to drive the future of our work across the coming years. Unfortunately, there was limited progress made on this due to shifting priorities in response to the conditions, as well as revised funding guidelines; the proposed work remains unfulfilled. A copy of the proposed plan has been attached (appendix 10) and identifies several strategies and directions for future work in this space.

In producing this document, partner agencies recognise the difficulties associated with priority shifts and the potential for this to impact current and future collaborative work. Partners have sought to capture the key contributions, to prevention work in Melbourne's West, highlighting the following key recommendations:

# Key recommendations

1. Adopt a community development approach to engaging and working with faith-based communities and their settings
2. Work in partnership and seek collaboration at every stage
3. Adopt flexibility as one the core principles
4. Engage and work with a range of service providers
5. Address knowledge gaps prior to commencing work
6. Adopt an action-based research approach to evaluation to support the fluidity required for this work

## Background

In Australia, on average at least one woman is killed per week by a current or former intimate partner (Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria, 2015), and the effect of violence on women and the community costs Australia an estimated \$21.6bn annually (VicHealth, 2015). The valuable role of faith leaders and communities in faith-based settings in the prevention of violence is recognised by the 2016 Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Faith based settings (including places, networks and associations that are brought together on the basis of faith, religion or belief) and their community leaders are in a unique position to influence positive cultural change toward creating a more equitable community and supporting actions toward the prevention of violence against women. The valuable role of these settings is recognised in the Preventing Violence Together 2030: Regional Strategy to Prevent Violence against Women and Royal Commission into Family Violence - Recommendation #163-165

The Royal Commission made three key recommendations regarding Faith based settings as outlined in the table below:

## Faith communities

The Royal Commission recommends that:

### Recommendation 163

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Multifaith Advisory Group and the Victorian Multicultural Commission, in partnership with expert family violence practitioners, develop training packages on family violence and sexual assault for faith leaders and communities [within three years]. These packages should build on existing work, reflect leading practice in responding to family violence, and include information about referral pathways for victims and perpetrators. The training should be suitable for inclusion as part of the pre-service learning in various faith training institutes, as well as the ongoing professional development of faith leaders.

### Recommendation 164

The Department of Health and Human Services consult with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Multifaith Advisory Group, the Victorian Multicultural Commission and women from faith communities as part of its review of standards for specialist family violence service providers (including men's behaviour change programs), to ensure that these standards and the associated services take account of the needs of people in faith communities who experience family violence [within two years].

### Recommendation 165

Faith leaders and communities establish processes for examining the ways in which they currently respond to family violence in their communities and whether any of their practices operate as deterrents to the prevention or reporting of, or recovery from, family violence or are used by perpetrators to excuse or condone abusive behaviour.

Recommendation 165 is designed to build on work already instigated by many faith groups recognised by the Royal Commission with the aim of preventing and responding to family violence.

Although this work had already begun in many faith settings, it had often not reached the grassroots level of local churches, mosques, temples, and other faith settings.

Melbourne's West provides an ideal setting to work with the diverse contexts and settings of family violence due to our highly diverse population.

Data from the 2016 Census across Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, and Wyndham LGA's collectively showed 67.8% identified as belonging to one or more religions (7.7% higher than the Greater Melbourne average). This includes a higher than average number of people who nominated religious affiliation within Western Catholic, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism religious groups. As a high growth area, there are many new communities forming, especially across the growth corridors of Wyndham and Melton, while in Brimbank and Maribyrnong over 48% and 40% respectively reported being born somewhere other than Australia.

With support from Community Centres and Local Governments, there are well established Interfaith Networks across Melbourne's West. Networks of local faith leaders and groups that engage in interfaith dialogue to build friendship across faiths, foster connection, social cohesion and belonging amongst community.

The work of the partnership is guided by its strategic document, Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women.

With these assets in place, against the backdrop of the Royal Commission's recommendation #165, and growing momentum amongst faith leaders to engage in this work, the Western Interfaith Collaboration: Building Equality and Respect was formed.

Recognising that significant work had commenced to engage faith communities across other areas of Melbourne, the group reached out to contacts in the eastern region, who helped guide our initial steps. We would like to recognise the support of the City of Greater Dandenong and the Promoting Equality and Respect resource that was the foundation of our work. As the project stakeholders were members of the Preventing Violence Together (PVT) western region partnership, the PVT 2030 Shared Regional Action Plan was used as the foundation of our objectives and strategies:

## Goal

To promote gender equity and challenge gender stereotypes in the Western Region Interfaith communities

## Objective

Increase awareness and understanding of gender equality and the primary prevention of violence against women among individuals, organisations, and the community

## Strategies

Develop initiatives that increase individual, organisational and community understanding of the links between gender inequality and men's violence against women

Identify and support community leaders to drive community actions that advance gender equality and challenge violence-supportive attitudes, norms, and practices

## Stakeholders

The working group has been led and coordinated by Western Health (formerly Djerriwarrh Health Services) and IPC Health Services. The following stakeholders have been active members in the working group at some point between 2017 and 2021:

- Melton Interfaith Network
- Wyndham Interfaith Network
- Brimbank / Maribyrnong Interfaith Network
- Hobsons Bay Interfaith Network
- GenWest (formerly Women's Health West)
- Melton City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Wyndham City Council
- Brimbank City Council
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Women of Wyndham organisation

Given their experience and local leadership in preventing violence against women, Western Health (Djerriwarrh Health Services) and IPC Health took on the co-chairing and coordination role for the group. Resourcing for the group's activities was provided via in-kind support, Integrated Health Promotion (IHP) funding from the Victorian Government, and project related funding from partner agencies aligned to prevention of violence against women objectives.

The Working Group met bi-monthly across the years with increased frequency on an ad hoc basis for specific projects and events. In between meetings working groups members are encouraged to meet and to progress ideas and objectives of the partnership.

## What we did:

Between 2017-2020 a range of activities and projects have been delivered (further detail is provided on these in the attached appendices):

- Building Equality and Respect Gender Equity Forum: Two springboard dialogue events to raise awareness of violence against women and gender equity, and engage cultural groups in discussion, hosted by Wyndham and Melton Interfaith Networks (appendix 1).
- Delivered introductory training for faith communities: two training sessions conducted by Women's Health West in Melton and Caroline Springs (appendix 2)
- Delivered the Think, Prevent Workshop: two face to face interfaith workshops raising awareness and exploring the unique role of faith communities in preventing violence against women. This led to a further workshop organised with the Sikh community in Wyndham (appendix 3)
- Healthy Masculinities across Faiths Photo Exhibition and video: Capturing Healthy Masculinity - Building Equality and Respect - YouTube (appendix 4)
- Building Equality and Respect Gender Equity Forum: Position Statement presented and signed by attendees (appendix 5)
- Delivered 3Rs, Recognise, Respond and Refer workshop: two online training sessions for faith leaders across the West, delivered by EDVOS (appendix 5)
- Development of a Gender Equity fact sheet: Provides faith and scripture context of gender equity for network members, working group members and general community members to be able to provide an educated response to backlash and queries (appendix 7)
- Implementation of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign lead by GenWest (appendix 8)
- Delivered meet and greet sessions: Introducing the network and partners to the faith communities in each area via satellite sessions in an informal setting (appendix 9)
- An online panel discussion on "Gender and Religion" featuring speakers from the Baha'i, Christian and Hindu communities
- Desktop Review of Family Violence Reporting Requirements for Faith Groups
- Provided links to resources for members of interfaith networks; shared experiences and approaches used by other networks and communities of faith

# What we learnt:

There is genuine interest in learning about and understanding how the drivers of violence against women are linked to gender inequality. There is also strong interest in identifying and collaborating on ways to build capacity of faith communities to prevent and respond to the drivers of violence against women, though limited information and examples exist on how best to do this.

Some of the more established communities of faith such as the Anglican Church have support from their organisational structure that has developed in-house training tools. They are able to identify actions, resources, and referral pathways. Less established groups do not appear to have the same level of support or capacity and would benefit from direct engagement and support from local stakeholders.

Relationships at a local level with faith communities allow responses to challenges to be discussed and avenues to strengthen capacity explored. Partnership with a peak body such as the Faith Communities Council of Victoria may assist and/or enable higher level engagement in future.

Like embedded social norms, cultural and faith norms can be hard to challenge, especially as they are intrinsic to an individual's identity and are often based on interpretation of scripture and/or cultural practices. It's important not to lose faith in this work, recognise where people are at on their journey and meet them there. There is an opportunity for us as sector agencies, to learn the intricacies of faith and ensure theory and action are aligned to the beliefs of those we are trying to reach, taking a faith-based lens, and recognising that learned beliefs take both repetition and an extended period of time to work through.

# What we would recommend for the future

## 1. Adopt a community development approach to engaging and working with faith-based communities and their settings.

Using capacity building and co-design practices to build understanding of the drivers of violence against women, with the goal of strengthening communities to promote equal and respectful relationships and actively challenge attitudes, behaviours and norms is effective. In our experience this approach has enabled the working group to adopt a strength-based approach that meets communities 'where they are at' on their journey to addressing the drivers of violence against women. In many instances we have deferred prevention-based activities/strategies to allow for response-based initiatives to carry forward before coming back to tackle the drivers of violence against women from an upstream focus.

## 2. Work in partnership and seek collaboration at every stage

By sharing varied complementary expertise and resources, stakeholders and organisations that partner successfully can better reach target cohorts, spur innovation, and achieve greater outcomes. The Building Equality and Respect Working Group recognise the positive influence working in partnership creates for engagement and sustainable change, and see it as an enabler of success. In our experience each member of the partnership has provided unique insights and opportunities for sharing of knowledge, insights, skills, and experiences benefiting the project. By not taking this approach we believe communities will be disadvantaged in achieving outcomes that are already time intensive, and the risk of missing important insights and perspectives carries with it a high likelihood of disengagement and backlash, due to the perceived contentiousness of the topic.

### 3. Adopt Flexibility as one the core principles

Interfaith settings provide a unique opportunity to engage both formal and informal faith leaders, and those who take action to work with their faith communities across a range of issues. They are essential partners for creating wide reaching impact across multiple levels and provide a degree of expertise and insight that ensures you are able to maximise the uptake of information across multiple communities. That said, it is still important to reach out to faith settings individually, so that messaging is consistent, and you are able to work directly with those you are aiming to impact. This will also allow for more targeted and nuanced response to particular faith groups/settings. Communities will often have varied needs, and this exists both within faith communities and Interfaith Networks, so it is important to adapt and respond to emerging needs, concerns, and issues.

### 4. Engage and work with a range of service providers

All faith groups engaged in this project were at different stages of readiness and preparedness to undertake prevention activities. Facilitating access to information and local services to address disclosure concerns and bystander actions in addition to core prevention work was important in this project. This required engagement with a varied cohort of service providers during planning and implementation in response to specific needs. Recognising that a range of service providers bring a breadth of solutions and engagement is key. Further to this, opportunities for varied forms of engagement can drive increased participation and communication of key messages. This is evidenced through the Capturing Healthy Masculinities project that involved engagement of creatives and used multimedia to promote healthy relationships.

### 5. Address knowledge gaps prior to commencing work

For many service providers, engaging the broader faith community in primary prevention of violence is still largely emergent work. For partners engaged in this work the project offered an opportunity to further explore the intersections and layers that drive family violence, and the opportunities for engagement to embed primary prevention. Addressing knowledge gaps amongst stakeholders was critical to achieving intended outcomes. For example, faith leaders provided insights to their community as it relates to faith and culture, including engagement strategies and current concerns. Service providers were able to provide expertise in the design and delivery of programs to ensure alignment and/or development with evidence informed practice.

### 6. Adopt an action-based research approach to evaluation to support the fluidity required for this work

This project opted for an action-based research approach to evaluation whereby planning, implementation and regular reflections informed the next steps of the project. The group recommends future implementation groups to identify knowledge and skill gaps around evaluation, i.e. action-based research evaluation, if this is unfamiliar prior to commencing work to ensure that achievements and progress are effectively captured and drive future work appropriately.

## Covid impact

Prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, in early 2020 all the stakeholders gathered for a facilitated planning session with Helen Rodd, hosted by Hobsons Bay City Council. The session was to drive the future of our work across the coming years. Unfortunately, there was limited progress made on this, and due to shifting priorities in response to the conditions, as well as funding bodies requirements, has meant that this foundational work remains unfulfilled. A copy of this has been attached (appendix 10) and identifies several strategies and directions for future work in this space.

Recognising that much has changed in that time, it remains important to bridge the gap in knowledge and understanding between community groups prior to commencing intensive work, and a need for more engaging but less impactful work will likely be required to re-build momentum and engagement within this space.

# Relevant Links

Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women

[https://whwest.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/PVT\\_strategy\\_2017.pdf](https://whwest.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/PVT_strategy_2017.pdf)

Promoting Equality and Respect resource book

<https://www.interfaithnetwork.org.au/images/stories/family-violence-multifaith.pdf>

Anglican Church resources shared from a project working to increase training and responsiveness to government reports and recommendations

<https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/pvaw/>

Anglican Church Background Research paper

[https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/EXT-ACE-Family-Violence-Position-Paper-Vic-1218\\_FA.pdf](https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/EXT-ACE-Family-Violence-Position-Paper-Vic-1218_FA.pdf)

## Appendix

### Appendix 1 - Building Equality and Respect: Gender Equity Forum

Aim: deliver two local events to raise awareness of violence against women and gender equity, and engage cultural groups in discussion and partnership opportunities.

Outcomes: the Melton event included presenters from Melton Uniting Church, Melton Interfaith Network, Zonta Melton, Think Prevent, and Djerriwarrh Health Services. 18 community members attended, including both Interfaith Network and non-network members including Mayor Bob Turner. 18 copies of the Promoting Equality and Respect handbook and gift bags were distributed on the day.

### Appendix 2 - Building Equality and Respect: Women's Health West training sessions

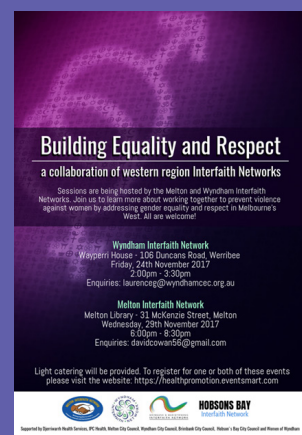
Aim: deliver two local events to raise awareness of violence against women and gender equity, and engage cultural groups in discussion and partnership opportunities.

Outcomes: delivered by Women's Health West, 2 sessions were run in Caroline Springs and Melton Libraries, attended by 10 and 8 people respectively. This included representation from both the Melton Interfaith Network and other non-affiliated community members.

### Appendix 3 - Think Prevent Workshops

Aim: to raise awareness and increase knowledge of local faith communities about gender-based violence in a faith setting.

Outcomes: greater support to take action that strengthens protections including reporting of incidents where needed. Areas of focus included responses to threats of violence linked to "dowry" which while illegal retains a strong influence in some communities. Action included support to the healthy masculinity photo project by submitting pictures and sharing posters/ film clip developed with faith communities.





## Appendix 4 - Capturing Healthy Masculinities project

**Aim:** highlighting local men in the community role modelling healthy behaviours and traits to contrast against unhealthy stereotypes - aligned to the PVT 16 Days Activist Challenge action 14: 'Talk with a man in your life about healthy masculinity'.

**Outcomes:** Interfaith Network members were invited to submit a photo demonstrating healthy masculinities and caption explaining why this photo was chosen and what it represents. 23 photos were selected from the total 32 submitted and included in a collage artwork that was unveiled as part of the Art of Conversation Exhibition in the Melton Library and showcased in various locations across the west. A video was also developed and is available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRNEZTMfu3o>

Men across many different faiths and cultures in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, reflected on how to model healthy masculinity and celebrated this through this creative opportunity. A diverse range of images showcasing healthy masculinity across faiths, cultures and abilities reached broad section of community in the West triggering conversations and reflection.

## Appendix 5 - Recognise Respond and Refer training sessions

**Aim:** to build the capacity and skills of faith leaders to recognise, respond and refer appropriately when family violence is occurring.

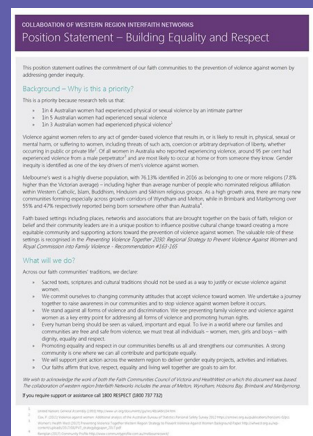
**Outcomes:** 24 faith leaders across the west participated in a workshop. 85% of participants rated their knowledge of the drivers and impacts family violence as high after the session, 63% advised that they felt equipped to take a more active role in recognising, responding, and referring family violence. All participants identified key strategies to prioritise victim safety, listen to and support victims, and strategies to create a safer space within their places of worship for victims to disclose safely and be connected with appropriate referral supports such as 1800 RESPECT.



## Appendix 6 - Position Statement

**Aim:** ensure ongoing commitment from faith communities towards actions that promote gender equality and prevents violence against women.

**Outcomes:** presented and signed at the forum event, the position statement is based on the Faith Communities Council of Victoria and HealthWest PVAW statements and provides a localised context. 10 people signed on to this at the event. This was developed in consultation with the working group, and signed off by each Interfaith Network



## Appendix 7 - Gender Equity Fact Sheet

**Aim:** provide faith and scripture context of gender equity for network members, working group members and general community members to be able to provide an educated response to backlash and queries.

**Outcomes:** a draft of the fact sheet has been created; however, this was impacted by the pandemic and was never finalised

**Why is gender equality important?**

The word gender means the social, economic and cultural traits of being female or male. In many societies being a woman or man is not related to physical features. Gender equity is about being fair to all genders. Where gender inequality exists, women may experience rejection, but included in decision-making, or unable to access the economic and social resources that they need. Gender equity is important for sustainable development, and human rights for all genders.

Gender equity is about fairness and justice. It is about ensuring that all genders have equal opportunities and resources.	Women's control of decision-making leads to women's independence, gender roles and stereotypes. It is about ensuring that all genders have equal opportunities and resources.	Gendering of violence against women. It is about ensuring that all genders have equal opportunities and resources.
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Violence against women refers to any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm, or suffering to women. This can include bullying and/or taking away the freedom of women. Acts such as these can occur in public or private life. In Australia at least, women are killed on average by a partner. Gender equity is one of the main effects on violence against women.

Faith based settings including places, people and groups that are brought together. On the basis of faith, religion or the belief that their community leaders can lead positive cultural change. This change is aimed at creating a more supporting community and supportive actions towards preventing violence against women.

### 16 Days of Activism

25 November - 10 December

The Building Equality and Respect group encourage people from all walks of life to take part in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Each year around the world, people take action to eliminate gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism held from 25 November to 10 December.

<https://16daysactivist.whowest.org.au/>

#### Action #9 of 16

### Recognise sexism and the promotion of harmful gender stereotypes in the media and tell others about it

Action	How does it contribute?	Keep going!
Watch the trailer for <b>Miss Representation</b> to explore the effects of gender stereotyping in the media. Send it to a friend, friend or family member. Share the main message you took from it about violence against women.	Research shows that being regularly exposed to media that usually objectifies women and promotes gender stereotypes. This increases the likelihood of men's violence against women.	Keep taking action to recognise and challenge gender stereotypes in the media. • Discuss these and try to show that show gender bias and stereotypes. • Make sure that the message and posters at your local faith community group do not encourage gender inequality and make it clear that you are for gender equality. • Challenge sexism in advertising. • Check out <b>Collective Shift</b> . This promotes messages that help to promote violence against women and challenge gender stereotypes.

### 16 Days of Activism

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#### Action #10 of 16

### Reflect on who does certain chores in your household and why

Action	How does it contribute?	Keep going!
Think about how household duties are allocated in your household or among 'your' family. For example, who does the cooking, car and home repairs, cleaning, childcare, grocery shopping, laundry, doing children's homework, etc. Who gets the most of these duties, tasks and chores? Reflect on why. How are the different tasks valued and acknowledged in your house, faith community or by your family?	Rigid gender roles and stereotypes label households as 'men's' and 'women's' spaces. This leads to men's and women's skills do the majority of unpaid work. This affects their participation in the workforce, economic security, free time, and health and wellbeing.	You can continue to support gender equity in your household divides tasks: • Discuss with your household who does what unpaid work, why and how it can be equitably shared. • Make sure women aren't unfairly carrying the mental load of managing the household. • Acknowledge, particularly caring and household work. • Take steps to make sure that men in your family aren't doing household chores, childcare, faith activities, etc. • Encourage men and women to actively support equality in their home.

### 16 Days of Activism

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<https://16daysactivist.whowest.org.au/>

#### Action #12 of 16

### What is unconscious gender bias and why is it a problem?

Action	How does it contribute?	Keep going!
Unconscious gender bias can make it difficult for women to be involved in leadership and decision-making. Promoting women's decision-making and independence is important for preventing violence against women. See the actions below that provide examples of gender bias and how to challenge it.	Unconscious gender bias is what beliefs about a gender. Often, people are not aware of their own gender bias. It is unconscious or automatic. These biases are often negative and based on gender stereotypes which limit possibilities for everyone.	Continue to take action to challenge unconscious gender bias: • Become aware of your own gender-based biases and assumptions about women and men. • Call out gender bias when you notice it in your everyday life. • Support unconscious gender bias training for staff at your workplace, place of worship or faith community. • Watch <b>This Old Man</b> in which a middle-aged man is challenged by a young woman about his unconscious gender biases of everyday people, on the street. • Read the <b>fact sheet</b> about unconscious bias and respect in your faith community.

### 16 Days of Activism

25 November - 10 December

The Building Equality and Respect group encourage people from all walks of life to take part in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Each year around the world, people take action to eliminate gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism held from 25 November to 10 December.

<https://16daysactivist.whowest.org.au/>

#### Action #15 of 16

### Challenge sexist jokes, comments and attitudes

Take action	How does it contribute?	Keep going!
When people make sexist or derogatory comments or jokes about women, it can be hard to speak up. Challenging sexism is essential to create the culture change needed to end violence against women. Here are some actions you can take to learn more and to challenge everyday sexism.	The evidence shows that disrespect towards women is the most common factor in partner violence against women. It is essential to challenge sexism, we must: • challenge sexist or derogatory comments, disrespectful and misogynistic behaviour towards men and women.	You can use these <b>video resources</b> to challenge your own attitudes and challenge those of others. Display <b>this poster</b> at work, school, your faith setting, community space, or anywhere else to help people understand the link between sexism and violence against women. You can also display <b>this poster</b> to help people understand the actions they can take to prevent violence against women.

## Appendix 8 - 16 Days of Activism

**Aim:** provide faith context to actions that faith community members can take toward gender equity.

**Outcomes:** utilised four of the existing Women's Health West 16 Days of Activism campaign actions that are relevant to our respective communities to apply a faith lens via an online social media campaign.

## HOW DOES GENDER EQUITY BENEFIT EVERYONE?

### A forum for Faith Communities in the West

• 6:30 - 7:30pm • Wednesday 28th August  
• Caroline Springs Library • 193-201 Caroline Springs Blvd, Caroline Springs •

The Building Equality and Respect group invite you to attend a meet and greet session to hear about the positive role faith communities can play to prevent violence against women.

This is a chance to get together with people from the Interfaith Networks across Melbourne's West, meet the Building Equality and Respect partners, and share some free food!

Register at <https://whowestgenderequitybenefitseveryone.eventbrite.com.au>

## CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

The positive role faith communities can play

• 6:30 - 7:30pm • Tuesday 24th September • Wyndham Community Education Center • 20 Synnot St, Werribee •

The Building Equality and Respect group invite you to attend a meet and greet session to hear about the positive role faith communities can play to prevent violence against women.

This is a chance to get together with people from the Interfaith Networks across Melbourne's West, meet the Building Equality and Respect partners, and share some free food!

RSVP by contacting Laurence Gray [laurenceg@wyndhamcecc.org.au](mailto:laurenceg@wyndhamcecc.org.au) by 23 Sept

## Appendix 9 - Meet and greet satellite sessions

**Aim:** offer informal meet and greet sessions were facilitated conversation around prevention of violence against women could take place.

