



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## **UNGA Third Committee Item 29: The Advancement of Women**

### **Statement delivered on 9 October 2018**

Mr Chair

Australia thanks both the Chair of the Committee and the Special Rapporteur for their reports.

We note the ongoing and important work of the CEDAW Committee and thank the Chair for her work over the Committee's 67th, 68th and 69th sessions.

Australia supports the Special Rapporteur in highlighting the issue of violence against women in politics.

We condemn all forms of violence against women in politics, whether it is physical, sexual, verbal, or, as we are increasingly observing, online.

The equal participation of women in political leadership and decision-making at all levels, as enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and in the Sustainable Development Goal 5, is fundamental to achieving gender equality.

We agree violence against women in politics has serious and far-reaching consequences, and, as likely intended by perpetrators, could ultimately act as a deterrent against women entering, or remaining in, politics.

In Australia, our major political parties have committed to achieving 50 per cent female representation by 2025.

Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner is currently leading a world-first National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces. We believe all workplaces should be free from all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and violence, and that all women should have the freedom to participate in public and political life without fear of reprimand or consequence.

This progressive National Inquiry demonstrates Australia's commitment to stamping out this problem.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that responsibility to address violence against women in politics falls to both state and non-state actors and that urgent action is required.

Australia is committed to eradicating this serious human rights violation.

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