

Media Release



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16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Call it Out: 38 per cent is not representative

Throughout the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* for 2019, Respect Victoria is encouraging Victorians to call out behaviour that contributes to gender-based violence.

Local governments across Victoria are holding events throughout the 16 days. For the full calendar of events, click [here](#).

In 2016, the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence identified a lack of women in leadership roles as a key driver of violence against women.

Today, the VLGA is calling attention to the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles in local governments throughout Victoria.

Despite making up over 50 per cent of Victoria's population, women make up only 38 per cent of Victoria's councillors.

Of the 79 CEOs of Victorian councils, only 32 of 79 are women.

VLGA President Cr Lambros Tapinos said,

"Our local governments need to reflect the communities they serve – therefore an equal number of men and women as councillors and council CEOs."

VLGA Chief Executive Officer Kathryn Arndt said, "A key driver of violence against women is gender stereotyping and the more women we see in leadership roles, the more that stereotyping is challenged."

"The VLGA is pleased to be supporting the Victorian government's target of 50 per cent women councillors by 2025 through our campaign, *Local Women Leading Change*. We continue to work with councils and the government to increase the number of women in executive roles in local government."

To reach 50 per cent women councillors, Victoria needs to elect an additional 79 women. The VLGA is committed to supporting councils in their actions to end gender-based violence and promote equal representation in decision-making roles.

Councils can call the VLGA on 9349 7999 to learn more about *Local Women Leading Change* and the work that the VLGA is doing to empower women in your community.

ENDS: