



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 5 December 2002

PARLIAMENTARY AMNESTY GROUP

Human Rights of Women

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (12.33 p.m.): I move—

That this House join Amnesty International in its campaign to support the human rights of women.

In addition, I ask honourable members particularly to support Amina Lawal, who faces death by stoning in Nigeria for having a child out of wedlock. Death by stoning contradicts the fundamental rights of every human being. This is not justice; this is judicial murder. It should not be tolerated in any country at any time. Amina Lawal should not be executed under any circumstances. I call on this House to support the campaign of Amnesty to guarantee women their human rights, including their right to be free from discrimination based on social status or gender and their right to be free from torture and inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment. These fundamental human rights should be recognised for all individuals.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa earlier this year a commitment was given by all participating countries to build a humane, equitable and caring global society cognisant of the need for human dignity for all. I call on this House to honour this commitment by supporting Amnesty's campaign to have the sentence of death by stoning, which was unjustly imposed on Amina Lawal, lifted.