



Speech by

**LINDY NELSON-CARR**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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**PARLIAMENTARY AMNESTY GROUP**

**Human Rights Violations, Myanmar**

**Ms NELSON-CARR** (Mundingburra—ALP) (3.20 p.m.): I also rise to support the motion and join my colleagues to express outrage at the continued abuse and atrocities meted out to women in particular throughout the world. Today in Queensland we have just launched the Strategic Agenda for Women and Girls here at parliament.

**Ms Keech:** Congratulations to you.

**Ms NELSON-CARR:** I thank the member. It is a five-year agenda and its purpose is to make life better, safer and more secure for Queensland women and girls. Queensland has a wealth of opportunities and experiences just waiting to be taken up. In providing an agenda specifically for women we, as a government, are putting into practice the notion that women and girls must have equity, equality, safety, good health, economic security and more if they are—

**Ms Molloy:** Go the girls!

**Ms NELSON-CARR:** Thank you—and more if they are able to participate effectively in this great state of ours.

This is not the situation with so many of our international sisters—women who are blamed for crimes perpetrated by men. We all remember the Nigerian woman sentenced to death by stoning for having consensual sexual relations whilst divorced. She was definitely a victim of human rights abuse over a two-year period. Thankfully, she had her sentence overturned and is now free. Amnesty International continues to campaign on behalf of other people sentenced to death as well as attempting to prevent cruel, inhuman and degrading sentences such as amputations and floggings, which is part of law in Nigeria, for instance.

I would also like everyone to take heed of the words that were said by the member for Albert. We do need your help for human rights in Burma. You can help by signing an online petition, which is readily available, and by encouraging friends, family and relatives to do the same. All parliamentarians should encourage their constituents to do the same by immediately sending a letter. In the letter it would be good to outline exactly what is happening. We need to urge the immediate and unconditional release of those who have been detained on account of their peaceful political activities on and after 30 May 2003. It is important to make public the names, the whereabouts and charges against all missing or detained, allow those in detention access to medical care, lawyers and relatives and ensure none are subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

We need to launch a full and independent investigation into the events of 30 and 31 May of this year and to bring suspected perpetrators to justice in accordance with international standards. We need not penalise the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression, assembly and association. At this point it is probably good to note that we accept these things in our country and in our state; in fact, we probably take them for granted. I ask that members look further afield than Queensland and look after our international sisters and brothers.