




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

MOTION

Women

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.04 pm): As the first female member elected to the state seat of Warrego since Federation, I rise to contribute to the debate supporting women. Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the members of parliament from both sides of this House who have spoken out to detail their own personal stories of sexual harassment and assault. I know there are also many other women who have rallied against violence and poor behaviour towards women.

There are women who every year in my electorate volunteer to raise awareness in our community of violence against women during the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. These women do not get their names in the paper, but they try to make a difference. They do, however, do a tremendous job creating community awareness about the issues that impact women and how change can happen.

These local women call out inappropriate behaviour against women locally, nationally and globally. They are the members of the Zonta clubs in Roma and Dalby and the club members around the world. I want to make mention of these women in this House because of the community service work they do to try to make a difference for women. I have been privileged to work with these women, particularly those in the Roma Zonta club, as a member on their campaigns to eliminate violence against women and improve outcomes for women and children.

Time in this debate will not permit me to name them all. I specifically want to acknowledge Heather Hall whose unwavering commitment to volunteering over many years for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is just amazing. Heather, your drive and energy is such an inspiration. Many people will meet Heather. When people do, I think they should commend her for what she does. I also want to mention Ree Price, Teresa Bradery, Ninette Johnstone, Wendy Jensen, Sue Sands, Christina Waldron, Megan Devlin and my dear friend Kell Freeman. These women contribute to the local public awareness campaigns to raise awareness of how one in four women today endure some type of physical or mental abuse in their own home. There is so much more to do.

The disappointing behaviour we have seen from our nation's capital shows just how much more work there is to do. There needs to be much more respect for others—for men and women—in our communities. There is a solution that will however be achieved by women and men working together respectfully for better outcomes.