




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MOTION

Women

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.10 pm): Rape, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment—these are the actions that March 4 Justice demonstrators were rallying against. I stand with them. Sexual violence is never okay.

The experiences of Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins are not isolated. Almost every woman has this story. I have this story. I have felt shame for not sharing it, but I cannot—and that is part of the problem. I want to give a voice to women who have not felt like they can share their story. Their story matters too. You are no less important and this is no less about you because you cannot say what happened. You are survivors of sexual violence and you always will be, and this is what this motion is about.

I acknowledge and I thank the thousands of Queenslanders who participated in the recent nationwide March 4 Justice rally. I stand with every member in this chamber and I condemn the harassment and assault of women. I support all women in their right to feel safe in their homes, in their workplaces and in their communities.

We have heard so many experiences of women, of children and of the vulnerable who have been violated by sexual predators. If one thing resounds louder than anything else, it is that now is the time for change and action. Brisbane Boys' College captain Mason Black sums it up when he said, 'I wish I grew up in an Australia where the narrative that one in three women will be physically or sexually abused at some point in their life wasn't true, but it is.'

Hear in this chamber from members on both sides we have heard experiences of sexual assault. The whole chamber is united in support of this motion. We are at the epicentre of Queensland politics. We have the ability to see change enacted, and I want to be part of that change. I stand here in support of all women.