




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gender-Based Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): Last Friday was the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and girls and marked the beginning of 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence. This year's theme is 'Unite! Activism to end violence against women and girls' and it invites everyone to play their role by showing support and solidarity with women's rights activists and resisting the attack on women's rights around the world. The 16 days of activism are a time for all Queenslanders to recommit to the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence in our communities and our workplaces.

We know that violence against women is inextricably tied to gender inequality and a lack of respect for women and girls, and that is why it is up to all of us to call out toxic attitudes and the beliefs that underpin it. I am so proud that the Palaszczuk government has been a leader in this regard. Since 2015 we have invested over \$1.3 billion to tackle domestic, family and sexual violence. This unprecedented investment in our systems, communities and first responders means we are all better placed to understand and identify violence in many forms, both physical and non-physical. That is why we are backing the \$1.3 billion investment with laws and reforms that we need to make lasting change such as introducing our bill to strengthen responses to domestic violence and coercive control.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the brave women who came forward to tell their story in the commission of inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence. The report that was released last week was difficult to read, but I say to those women: we hear you, we see you, we believe you, and now we are taking action. We must continue to drive the cultural change necessary to ensure that women are believed and supported. The Palaszczuk government will continue to do better, just as the whole community must continue to do better, and that is why events like the 16 days of activism are so important. They are reminders that we all have a role to play in ensuring future generations of women and girls can live in a world free of violence, and it is only through the sustained and deliberate effort of each of us that we can end domestic and family violence for good.