




Speech By
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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

International Women's Day; Iran, Women

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.45 pm): Last week was International Women's Week and, like many members of the House, I was invited to some fabulous local events. I want to mention a few here in the House today. The first was the Queensland Corrective Services International Women's Day Breakfast, celebrating with over 100 hardworking QCS staff members at a yummy cafeteria breakfast. Of course, the highlight was awarding some of the hardworking women in Corrective Services a meritorious service award. The highlight for me, though, was a speech by Claudia, a QCS officer currently completing a PhD in psychology as it pertains to her work within the corrective services field. In her speech on the morning she particularly talked about the importance of using logic and not being ruled by your emotions. The following is taken directly from Claudia's speech on the morning. She said—

Firstly: Trust your logic and not your emotions. Working in correctional centres can be really emotional work. We feel all sorts of emotions frequently and intensely—

Indeed, my friend the member for Caloundra knows this only too well from his service in the field—

compared to a lot of other jobs. We are also exposed to a range of emotions in others, all day long, when we work with the prisoner population. Because these emotions are naturally heightened and chaotic due to the environment, they don't necessarily lead us to good actions.

Claudia says—

Three things which I find useful to ask myself when I react emotionally are;

Is this action going to make me look professional?

When I'm safely at home with my loved ones, how much will this matter?

What do I actually want to achieve and what's the best way to achieve it?

The second thing that she said she had learned during her time in Corrections is that kindness is not weakness. When she first started at BCC, the academy informed the centre that they were concerned that she would not be able to elicit compliance from prisoners because she was polite and softly spoken. She continued—

Coming in as a young woman with a thirst to prove myself (and also being rule oriented) actually meant I worked well with prisoners.

This shows more broadly that you can be polite, kind and softly spoken while still showing authority. There is a real wisdom in Claudia's words that apply to many professions, including politics. Someone who sums this up beautifully is our very own Premier, who leads in a collaborative but not confrontational way.

At the second event I attended on International Women's Day evening, along with my eldest daughter, Allegra, and my mate Azad, I stood proudly alongside hundreds of Iranian Australians to send a clear message that the actions of the Iranian government in murdering Mahsa Amini and thousands of other women, men and children is wrong and will not be tolerated. Many Queenslanders may be aware of the terrible atrocities happening in Iran right now, many being perpetrated towards women and children, especially school students. Just recently, hundreds of school students were poisoned and thousands more have been murdered. I was honoured to speak. Let's keep supporting the Iranian community. Women, life, freedom!