



Council Argues Better Balance is Needed Within Gender and Not Just Across it

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) extends its greetings to all women and men who support their cause in celebrating International Women's Day.

Council President Ramdas Sankaran said, "For gender equity to be effectively achieved the International Women's Day 2019 campaign theme of [#BalanceforBetter](#) should not just focus on the gender divide between men and women but also consider the cross sectionality of gender (from the perspective of women) and aboriginality, ethnicity, disability etc."

"Whilst much progress has been made at the macro level on issues such as pay parity, representation in senior and important decision making roles etc. gender equity still has a long way to go in Australia and globally to achieve a true state of balance."

"Our Council has organised many events to celebrate International Women's Day in recent years to signal its support for gender equity and CaLD gender equity in particular."

"We commend and congratulate Anglo Australian women for advocating and lobbying for change vigorously. However, the fruits of their efforts have largely been limited to their own kind. Ironically, what that has led to, is the replacement of Male Anglo domination of our society with Male and Female Anglo domination of our society and that does not augur well for a culturally plural representative democracy such as Australia," said Mr. Sankaran.

"Accordingly our Council urge Anglo Australian women and those who support gender equity to ensure that this also encompasses equity from the perspective of aboriginality, ethnicity, faith, disability, etc."

"The level of diversity in WA is at an all-time high and this diversity is often lauded by our governments as a measure of our multi-cultural harmony. Sadly this is not reflected in the participation of CaLD women in decision making bodies despite no dearth of highly qualified and experienced CaLD women in WA. This has to change as a matter of urgency."

"The last four of the presidents of our Council have been women and 50% of its current management committee are women. The ethnic backgrounds of the management committee members are Indian, Italian, Pakistani, Malaysian, Singaporean, Congolese, Iranian, Burmese (Karen), Eritrean, Ethiopian, Ukrainian, Philippine and Malaysian. We are also fortunate that our Executive Officer is a woman who is highly skilled, knowledgeable and experienced. Our Council calls on CaLD communities and men in particular to set an example in ensuring women are respected and accorded the same rights and entitlements that they enjoy and to ensure that they can equitably participate in the management committees of their organisations," he added.

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