

# Knox Accord to End Violence Against Women

## Introduction:

The ***Knox Accord to End Violence Against Women (KAEVAW)*** was first adopted by the community members of the City of Knox situated within the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne on 23 November 2007. The *KAEVAW* is comprised of two discrete Commitment Statements and related protocols developed and voluntarily agreed to by community members within the City of Knox.

The full unabridged *KAEVAW* was developed through a period of community consultation with a broad range of community members and organisations culminating in a Violence Against Women Forum held at Progress Hall, The Basin, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

The form of the *KAEVAW* was drawn from the *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (1979)*. The Commitment Statements and related protocols have been aligned with the *White Ribbon Campaign (WRC)* oath to not commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women.

Signatories include community members, and community representatives.

Total number of signatories 10 December 2007 \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of signatories 10 December 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of signatories 10 December 2009 \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of signatories 10 December 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of signatories on the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Knox Accord

10 December 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

The KAEVAW identifies Knox as a community that affirms respect for all women and for their right to perform within their chosen roles and be recognised as full and equal participants in all domains, be they social, political, economic, or cultural. The KAEVAW signifies that the community of the City of Knox:

- (a) opposes all forms of violence and violence against women in particular;
- (b) acknowledges and supports existing policies, approaches and services that respond to violence when it occurs; and,
- (c) is committed to developing local strategies and policies to prevent violence, and respond effectively to violence when it occurs.

The City of Knox has a growing number of community members who have taken an oath to 'not commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women' (WRC Pledge). As a community we emphasise the destructiveness and criminality of all forms of violence against women and resolve to hold to account perpetrators of violence.

The KAEVAW recognises Knox Council, Victorian, Australian and International policy and strategic documents relevant to preventing and responding to violence against women (Appendix Two). Violence against women is identified as being first and foremost a violation of human rights as enshrined in International Human Rights law, such as in the UN Declaration of the Elimination of violence against women (DEVAW) 1993 of which Australia is a signatory. A list of local services that respond to violence against women are included in Appendix Three.

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The full text of the **Knox Accord to End Violence against Women (KAEVAW)** is available in Appendix One. The full text has been designed to reflect and compliment international, national, state and local policies and strategies, and has been developed in consultation with numerous organisations, community groups and members of the City of Knox. The abridged text is as follows:

The supporters of the Knox Accord to End Violence against Women, motivated and collectively agreed to support the Commitment Statements and protocols outlined, the impetus of the **Knox Accord to End Violence against Women (KAEVAW)**, and to adopt the actions necessary to ending violence against women in all of its forms and expressions,

Have agreed on the following:

**Violence against Women:** For the purposes of the KAEVAW, the term 'violence against women' will be understood to be 'any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life' (UN 1993).

## **PART I Signatory Community Members**

The term 'Signatory Community Member' refers to community members who reside, or regularly participate in activities within the City of Knox.

### ***Commitment Statement One***

As a community member of the City of Knox I condemn violence against women in all its forms and commit to personal reflection to ensure that:

- a) My actions will not inflict violence against women.
- b) My actions, do not express support, or condone any form of violence against women.
- c) I will not remain silent about violence against women. When I see or hear about violence against women I will not ignore, minimise, or avoid it but instead seek to challenge it with my words and my actions.

## **PART II Signatory Community Representatives**

The term 'Signatory Community Representatives' refers to community members who hold positions of responsibility within the community related to management, oversight or coordination of people, resources, and services. Signatory Community Representatives are persons who agree to work within their sphere of influence to oppose male violence against women, and to seek to facilitate effective responses to violence against women when it occurs.

### ***Commitment Statement Two***

Signatory Community Representatives join the Knox Accord by condemning violence against women in all its forms and commit to personal reflection to ensure that:

- a) My actions will not inflict violence against women.
- b) My actions, do not express support, or condone any form of violence against women.
- c) I will not remain silent about violence against women. When I see or hear about violence against women I will not ignore, minimise, or avoid it but instead seek to challenge it with my words and my actions.
- d) In my position/s of responsibility, I will be active in promoting dialogue and challenging violence against women, and in seeking to facilitate effective responses to violence where it occurs.

## **Appendix One**

The full text of the **Knox Accord to End Violence against Women (KAEVAW)** is as follows:

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Wurundgeri people and pay respects to the elders of the Kulin nations, past and present. The supporters of the Knox Accord to End Violence Against Women,

In recognition of international human rights enshrined in international law, and adopted by the United Nations to the ends of upholding the equality of all and prohibiting all forms of violence against women,

Noting the former UN Secretary General's position that 'violence against women has yet to receive the priority attention and resources needed at all levels to tackle it with the seriousness and visibility necessary' (2006 A/61/122/Add, 1),

In recognition of the Commonwealth Constitution Act 1900 and all subsequent laws passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, under Part V (section 51) developed for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth,

In recognition of the Victorian Constitution Act 1975 and all Victorian State Government laws since passed by the Parliament of Victoria and given Royal Assent by the Governor of Victoria,

Noting the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault, the ongoing Women's Safety Strategy and the Federal Government's commitment to addressing violence against women through efforts focused on the themes of prevention, health, justice, and services;

Noting the Victorian Government's Women's Safety Strategy, and focus of addressing violence against women as outlined in A Fairer Victoria: Creating Opportunity and Addressing Disadvantage;

Noting the Reforming the Family Violence System in Victoria: Report of the State-wide Steering Committee to reduce Family Violence, the Victorian Law Reform Commission Review of Family Violence, the Draft Family Violence Bill and the combined resultant changes to the Justice system,

In recognition of the changes in the Victorian Policing of violence against women as reflected in the Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence,

In recognition of the Knox City Council status as a local council and therefore a 'distinct and essential tier of government' recognised under the Constitution Act 1975 (Section 74) which states that democratically elected councils are to

'ensure the peace, order and good government of each municipal district', and supporting the direction as set by the Knox Vision 2025: Council and Community, A Partnership in Progress, to combat violence against women including the aim to increase Social and Environmental Responsibility, and to promote Healthy Connected Communities so that Knox is a safe place to live and everyone is safe in their homes and in public spaces,

Concerned that the criminality of violence against women is often overlooked, that perpetrators of violence are inconsistently held to account, and that despite the number, the depth and breadth of laws and policies, extensive male violence against women continues to occur,

Alarmed that gender based violence has specific impact upon the girl-child, and that violence within families has harmful impacts upon children, female and male.

Convinced that strengthening of community opposition to violence against women, the amplification of this expressed opposition, and the development of local strategies and efficient local responses to violence against women, will significantly reduce its occurrence,

Drawing attention to violence against women as being a tool for domination and subjugation, a barrier to full and equal participation with men in political, social, economic and cultural life, an obstacle to the health and wellbeing of families and community members, a challenge to economic progress, and a contravention of the enshrined equality of rights and respect for human dignity,

Emphasising that women and men are not opposites, and that addressing sexism, inequality and beliefs that polarise the sexes and devalue women generally is key to ending violence against women,

Aware that changes in popular discourses of masculinity and femininity and in the traditional views of male and female gender roles is needed to promote equality and reduce male violence against women,

In remembrance of those women whose lives have been violently ended, of those women who have survived, and of those women and men who have sought to achieve equality, equity, respect, and peaceful non-violent co-existence,

Motivated and collectively agreed to support the Agreement Statements outlined, the impetus of the **Knox Accord to End Violence against Women (KAEVAW)**, and to adopt the actions necessary to ending violence against women in all of its forms and expressions,

Have agreed on the following:

## **Appendix Two**

### **Key Local Vision Document relevant to Violence against Women:**

Knox Vision 2025: Council and Community, a Partnership in Progress

### **Key Victorian Policy Documents relevant to Violence against Women:**

The Women's Safety Strategy 2002 - 2007  
Women's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2006 - 2010  
A Fairer Victoria: Creating Opportunity and Addressing Disadvantage (Strategy 3: Responding to family violence more effectively) 2005.  
Changing Lives: A New Approach to Family Violence  
Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence 2004  
Reforming the Family Violence System in Victoria; Report of the State-wide Steering Committee to reduce Family Violence 2005  
Victorian Law Reform Commission Review of Family Violence 2006  
Draft Family Violence Bill 2007

### **Key Federal Government Policy Documents relevant to Violence against Women:**

Partnerships against Domestic Violence 1998 - 2001  
National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault 2001 - 2005  
Women's Safety Agenda 2005

### **Key Victorian State Government Laws relevant to Violence against Women:**

The Crimes Act 1958  
Summary Offences Act 1966  
The Crimes (Family Violence) Act 1987  
Section 64 (1 & 1A) of Children and Young Persons Act 1989  
The Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985  
Equal Opportunity Act 1995  
Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001  
Prostitution Control Act 1994  
Crimes (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 1996  
Victims of Crime Assistance (Amendment) Act 1997

### **Key Commonwealth Government Laws relevant to Violence against Women:**

Sex Discrimination Act 1984  
Racial Discrimination Act 1975  
Slavery and Sexual Servitude Amendment Act 1999

The Knox Accord to End Violence Against Women November 2007

## **Key International Meetings relevant to Violence Against Women**

Habitat II, Istanbul, 1996

Beijing Action for Equality, Development and Peace, Platform for Action 1995

World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995

International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 1994

UN Conference on Human Rights Vienna 1993

Un Conference on Environment UNCED Rio de Janeiro

Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies 1985

## **Key International Laws relevant to Violence against Women signed by an Australian Federal Government Representative or Head of State:**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) 1979.

Declaration of the Elimination of violence against women (DEVAW) 1993.

International Covenant on Economic Social, and Cultural Rights 1976

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1976 (and its two optional protocols)

Economic and Social Council, Siracusa Principles on the limitation and

Derogation Provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights 1985 (interpretive provisions)

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1969.

Convention of the Rights of the Child 1990

Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography 2002.

Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1987

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families 2003

## **Appendix Three:**

### **Local (& select Eastern Metropolitan Region) Services:**

Police Emergency 000  
Police Knox Family Violence Liaison Officer 9881 7000  
Police Boronia Family Violence Liaison Officer 9760 6600  
Police Rowville Family Violence Liaison Officer 9764 0996

Department of Human Services  
Child Protection AHs 131 278

Legal/Intervention Orders:  
Family Violence Court Heidelberg 8458 2000  
Magistrates Court Melbourne 9628 7777  
Magistrates Court Ringwood 9871 444  
Magistrates Court Dandenong 9767 1300  
Court Network and Support 9603 7433 / 1800 681 614  
Victorian Legal Aid 9269 0120  
Eastern Community Legal Service 9762 6235  
General Services for Women and Children

Australian Childhood Foundation 9874 3922  
Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service 9373 0123 / 1800 015 188  
Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault 1800 806 292  
Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service 9870 5939  
Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre 9486 9866  
Domestic Violence East (referrals via WDVCSV) 1800 015 188  
Migrant Information Centre 9285 4888  
Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service 98983145  
Victims of Crime Helpline 1800 819 817  
Eastern Victim Assistance and Counselling Program 1300 884 284  
Women's Information and Referral Exchange 1300 134 130  
Knox Community Health Service 97576293  
Lifeline Telephone Counselling 131 114  
Kids Helpline Counselling 1800 551 800  
Child Protection Emergency Services 131 278  
Salvation Army Eastcare (referrals via WDVCSV) 1800 015 188

Behaviour Change Programs for Perpetrators of Violence

Men's Referral Service 1800 065 973  
Anglicare Victoria 9735 4188  
Relationships Australia 9725 9964  
Whitehorse Community Health Service 9890 2220  
Yarra Valley Community Health Service 1300 130 181  
MonashLink Community Health Service 1300 552 509