

Joint letter – SASVic, Safe+Equal and No to Violence

To the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition,

New commitment needed to end violence against women and children in Victoria

Every Victorian deserves to live free from violence. Today too many women and children are living in fear, children are growing up with abuse, and families are being devastated by violence.

One in four women in Australia have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15¹.

On average, police attend a family violence incident every six minutes in Victoria and children were recorded as present at 36% of family violence incidents².

An estimated 1,120,337 Victorian men use violence over their lifetime – 35% of the male population or 1 in 3 men³.

To end family violence in Victoria, we need a shared commitment to ending family and sexual violence. We need political leaders to **pledge to develop a new 10-year strategy to end family violence and a dedicated strategy to address sexual violence**.

Victoria has made progress, but the work is unfinished. The current family violence strategy ends in 2027. Without a clear commitment to what comes next, more opportunities to intervene will be missed, more families will endure preventable violence, and more lives will be lost.

Victorians need confidence that help will be there when they need it, and that action will be taken before violence escalates. This requires investment in preventing violence, supporting victim-survivors and stopping violence at its source.

We are calling on the leadership of all Victorian political parties to commit ensuring the work to end family and sexual violence in Victoria will continue. This means pledging to a new 10-year strategy. Lives depend on it.

¹ Safer from Harm, Victoria Police, <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/safe-harm-victoria-police-strategy-family-violence-sexual-offences-and-child-abuse-2024-2029/what-do-we-know>

² Safer from Harm, Victoria Police, <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/safe-harm-victoria-police-strategy-family-violence-sexual-offences-and-child-abuse-2024-2029/what-do-we-know>

³ Ten to Men (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2025) found 1 in 3 men (35%) involved in their longitudinal study self-reported using violence and estimate 120,000 men start using violence every year. The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics census (2021) recorded 3,200,963 males in Victoria. Assuming 35% of Victorian males use violence in their lifetime, 1,120,337 men at 2021 population levels could be expected to use violence in Victoria at some point in their life.

SAFE+EQUAL



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joumanah El-Matrah".

Dr Joumanah El-Matrah
Chief Executive Officer
Safe and Equal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Maltzahn".

Kathleen Maltzahn
Chief Executive Officer
Sexual Assault Services Victoria (SASVic)

No to Violence

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Ripper".

Phillip Ripper
Chief Executive Officer
No to Violence