Activist briefing

Winning Respect@Work & Paid Family & Domestic Violence leave

Every day unions support members who have been sexually harassed at work: two in three women and one in three men have experienced it according to our Australian Unions survey in 2018.

There is a plan to make work safer, especially for women. The landmark Respect@Work report has 55 recommendations to create stronger rights to eliminate sexual harassment.

The Federal Government sat on this report for over a year before it was forced to act by the outcry of women in this country in response to Brittany Higgins and other women coming forward. It now has a Bill before the Parliament cherry-picking some recommendations but ignoring the ones that would make the biggest contribution to making women safe at work.

We also know that family and domestic violence is a national crisis, especially during the pandemic. But the Government has refused to support paid family and domestic violence leave to help a women leave an abusive relationship.

The Vote on the Bill could be as early as this Wednesday. We urgently need to convince Crossbench politicians and the Government to vote for all of Respect@Work. Priority recommendations include:

- A clear prohibition on sexual harassment supported by a proper complaints mechanism.
- A positive duty on employers to take proactive steps to eliminate sexual harassment, rather than just waiting until things go wrong.
- Ten days paid family and domestic violence leave – to help a woman leave an abusive relationship.

Can you help us put pressure on these key Senators and MPs over the next 48 hours?

- Find the Politician we are targeting in your home state (see the table on the next page)
- Do a post on social media, tagging them in.
- Be respectful. We are trying to convince people.
- Take a selfie with our selfie sign: https://cloud.actu.org.au/index.php/s/9GtA9SwFzp25TMS
- Use #wewontwait – find and share other posts as well.
- Here are some tweets to improve upon:

Dear @Senator Cash – Harassment and violence against women at work is a national crisis. To make women safer at work, implement all of Respect@Work #wewontwait

Hi @PaulineHansonOz –Two in five women have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace in the past five years. Half measures won't deal with this national crisis. Support all of the Respect@Work recommendations #wewontwait

Hi @Anne_Ruston - A woman is killed by her intimate partner each week on average. But paid leave can help a woman leave. Support 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave for all women, in the Respect@Work Bill this week #wewontwait

ACTU australian council of trade unions

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Name	State	Twitter handle	Facebook Page	Email
Senator Michaelia Cash	WA	@SenatorCash	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=342777703875955&set=a.335645661255826	senator.cash@aph.gov.au
Senator Pauline Hanson	QLD	@PaulineHansonOz	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=327210315439164&set=a.327210298772499	*senator.hanson*@aph.gov.au
Senator Malcolm Roberts	QLD	@MRobertsQLD	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=329681465393081&set=a.329681445393083	*senator.roberts*@aph.gov.au
Senator Amanda Stoker	QLD	@stoker_aj	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=330167215340182&set=a.330167228673514	senator.stoker@aph.gov.au
Senator Rex Patrick	SA	@Senator_Patrick	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=286236979963645&set=a.286236996630310	*senator.patrick*@aph.gov.au
Senator Stirling Griff	SA	@Stirling_G	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=213939437220561&set=a.213939427220562	*senator.griff*@aph.gov.au
Rebekha Sharkie MP	SA	@MakeMayoMatter	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=227761002492361&set=a.227761009159027	*Rebekha.Sharkie*.mp@aph.gov.au
Senator Anne Ruston	SA	@Anne_Ruston	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=207891277818985&set=a.207891261152320	*senator.ruston*@aph.gov.au
Helen Haines MP	Vic	@helenhainesindi	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=211790094105707&set=a.211790087439041	*helen.haines*.mp@aph.gov.au
Senator Marise Payne	NSW	@MarisePayne	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=346052176876697&set=a.346052190210029	Senator.payne@aph.gov.au
Zali Stegall MP	NSW	@zalistegall	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=119578790291572&set=a.119578783624906	Zali.stegall.mp@aph.gov.au
Senator Jacqui Lambie	Tas	@JacquiLambie	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=339920764170146&set=a.339920760836813	Senator.lambie@aph.gov.au

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