



Women's Human Rights Campaign

Australian launch of the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights

20 February 2020

In the lead up to this year's celebrations for International Women's Day, the Australian branch of the Women's Human Rights Campaign will launch the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights in a series of events around Australia.

"The Declaration is a product of grassroots community activism by volunteer women from across the globe dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights," explains Anna Kerr of Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. "These women include academics, writers, activists, and health practitioners who share concern about moves to undermine the definition of woman as 'adult human female'."

The international launch took place in New York in March last year and featured speakers including Professor Sheila Jeffreys, Dr Heather Brunskell-Evans, and Maureen O'Hara, who all spoke on the importance of keeping a sex-based definition of the term "woman." Launch events in Australia will kick off with the Feminist Futures Evening in Sydney tomorrow night with a panel of gender critical feminists chaired by Professor Bronwyn Winter of the University of Sydney who says:

"Substituting socially constructed notions of gender identity, which feminists have always critiqued as damaging to women, in place of the at-once biological and social category of sex, has serious ramifications for the human rights of women and girls. The damaging impacts of transgender ideology, include the loss of safe spaces for women, the erasure of lesbians, the removal of sex-based protections in areas such as women's sports, women's health, pregnancy and childbirth, and extensive medical experimentation on children."

The Women's Human Rights Campaign has many collaborating organisations and networks in Australia including Fair Go for Queensland Women, IWD Meanjin Brisbane, Feminist Legal Clinic Inc, Women Speak Tasmania, Erinyes Autonomous Activist Lesbians, Australian Radical Feminists, Women's Guild NSW, Australian Parents Questioning Gender, Matrix Guild Victoria and the Coalition of Activist Lesbians.

The Declaration already has thousands of individual signatures from 102 countries and has been translated into 13 languages. Text of the Declaration and more information can be found on the main website at <https://www.womensdeclaration.com/> and on the Facebook page for the Declaration at <https://www.facebook.com/DeclarationOn/>. For more details about the Feminist Futures evening and upcoming events in other states, contact details follow.

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