



AUSTRALIAN PEAK MULTICULTURAL BODY CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today restated its position that violence against women in any form is unacceptable. This was in response to media articles that a local religious cleric has reportedly stated that men are entitled to hit their wives.

"Violence against women is completely unacceptable in any circumstances and there can be no cultural or religious defence for violence against women. All Australians need to be reminded that Australian law prohibits violence against women in any context", said Acting FECCA Chair, Beryl Mulder.

FECCA is an active member of the White Ribbon Foundation which is committed to ending violence against women. Many prominent men from culturally and religious backgrounds have become White Ribbon Ambassadors.

Last year FECCA assisted community leaders Ikebal Patel, President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Dr Berhan Ahmed, Chair of the African Think Tank and Abeselom Nega, Chair of the Federation of African Communities' Council to become National White Ribbon Ambassadors.

FECCA works hard to promote the White Ribbon Foundation message and produced a detailed policy report to the White Ribbon Foundation last year.

FECCA is committed to working with culturally and religiously diverse communities and the broader Australian community to end violence against women and condemns these reported statements. These statements do not represent the mainstream views of cultural and faith diverse communities.

January 22 2009. Media comment: Beryl Mulder 0418 821 912 – Peter van Vliet 0421 558 544.