



Muslim Women Australia

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6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Muslim Women Australia (MWA) Statement for the United Nations 68th Annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

On this International Women's Day 2024, Muslim Women Australia (MWA) stands in solidarity not in celebration, to remember women around the world who continue to suffer from oppression, violence, and inequality. In line with the findings of the "Gender Snapshot 2023," we recognise that despite some progress, significant gaps remain in achieving gender equality under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year, our focus is sharpened by the ongoing crisis in Palestine, illustrating the severe impact conflicts have on women's rights, health, and well-being. As a frontline organisation combatting domestic and family violence, we see firsthand how these global crises exacerbate gender-based violence and inequality at both micro and macro levels.

Our commitment is to amplify the voices of those fighting against oppression and to highlight the resilience of women worldwide. We draw attention to the urgent need for focused action on SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), among others, to address the systemic barriers that continue to hinder the progress of women and girls globally.

In respect to SDG 5, this means a greater focus on tackling gender-based violence, ensuring equal opportunities for leadership and decision-making, and promoting access to education and health. SDG 10 is of particular importance currently given its emphasis on reducing inequalities within and among countries, which involves supporting marginalised women and girls, including those in conflict zones like Palestine. Finally, SDG 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. This aligns with MWA's efforts to combat domestic and family violence and our advocacy for the rights and well-being of women in crisis situations.

MWA is proud to launch the "Seeds of Resistance" report, showcasing the powerful ways in which individuals and communities resist racism, violence, and discrimination. We call for global solidarity, action, and an end to tokenism. Our collective efforts must aim at dismantling the structures sustaining power imbalances, ensuring the empowerment and equality of all women and girls.

As we approach the 2030 deadline for the SDGs, let us renew our commitment to gender equality, leveraging the insights from the "Gender Snapshot 2023" to inform our actions and policies. Together, we can build a more equitable and just world for every woman and girl.

Yours sincerely,

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