

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Resolution: Violence against women – tabled amendment L.38

11 July 2019

Australian Statement: Explanation of Vote

We have listened carefully to the diversity of views expressed on this issue. However, we cannot accept amendment L.38, which seeks to delete the reference to intimate partner violence.

I would like to explain why. Intimate partner violence impacts women around the world. Globally, a third of women murdered in 2017 were killed by their current or former partner. In Australia, this translates to an average of one woman killed every week. This is a human rights abuse that clearly demands this Council's attention.

The relevance of intimate partner violence to this resolution on violence against women and girls in the world of work, is irrefutable.

No incident of gender-based violence occurs in a vacuum. Such violence is grounded in gender stereotypes and long-standing and systemic discrimination in all spheres of life, including in the world of work.

That intimate partner violence primarily occurs in the private sphere is no excuse to disregard it. On the contrary, it underlines the importance of addressing this type of violence by this Council. The particular complexities of violence in intimate relationships requires nuanced policy responses, especially as it can lead to devastating consequences in all aspects of the affected person's life, including their participation in the workforce.

Amendment L.38 seeks to narrow the scope of gender-based violence addressed by this resolution. In failing to address one of the most common forms of violence against women and girls, this amendment sends the wrong message that gender-based violence occurring in private is of no concern to this Council.

Australia will vote against this amendment, and we urge members of this Council to do the same.

270 Words