



Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women

20 February 2014

Government announces the non-government delegates for the CSW58

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash said she is honoured to lead the Australian Government delegation to the 58th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) next month.

As the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women, the forum is a unique opportunity for governments to share ideas and discuss progress in their respective countries.

“I am pleased to announce that Dr Susan Harris Rimmer and Ms Julie McKay have been invited to take part in this year’s CSW as non-government delegates and will join me in New York,” Minister Cash said.

Dr Harris Rimmer is the Director of Studies at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University and has extensive experience in human rights and international policy. Ms McKay is the Executive Director at the Australian National Committee for UN Women and is a long-standing advocate on key issues such as women’s leadership and pay equity.

“Their combined expertise will be a tremendous asset to the delegation and I look forward to working with them to promote key issues such as reducing violence against women as well as increasing women’s education and workforce participation,” Minister Cash said.

Following the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals the post-2015 development agenda will be a key focus for CSW and is an opportunity to ensure gender equality is strongly reflected in its design.

Minister Cash said promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be a priority in the post-2015 agenda.

“While the world has achieved parity in primary education between boys and girls, women continue to face discrimination in areas such as employment,” Minister Cash said.

“Furthermore, the safety of women and girls is a key priority of the Coalition Government and I will also be working to promote the elimination of harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation as well as underage and forced marriages.”

“Australia will continue to place emphasis on our existing commitment to addressing the development needs of countries in the Indo–Pacific region.”

“We are very keen to emphasise Australia’s efforts in negotiating a post-2015 development agenda which focuses on the economic empowerment of women as a driver of global economic growth and poverty reduction,” Minister Cash said.

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