

Media Release

Albanese Government takes an important step in creating an equitable society.

Harmony Alliance welcomes the Albanese Government's Strategy for Gender Equality released today and their announcement that superannuation will be paid on parental leave.

The strategy is an important step toward achieving gender equality in Australia, and we celebrate the adoption of intersectional principles.

However, we note there are gaps in its response to the needs of migrant and refugee women. We would like to see future iterations of the strategy focus on addressing racism and discrimination as a factor that interplays and shapes the outcomes and experiences of migrant and refugee women across Australia.

We welcome the Albanese Government's commitments, including developing culturally responsive health services, improving access to health information and increasing diversity of representation in decision-making and leadership roles through target-setting.

Harmony Alliance looks forward to working with the Government to support and guide the progress of the Strategy.

Quotes attributable to Harmony Alliance Chair Nyadol Nyuon OAM:

"Today's women's strategy wouldn't have happened without the years of advocacy in Australia by women and women's advocacy groups, and they should be commended."

"While the government has adopted intersectional principles and made some important commitments, there is a need to develop targeted measures to address the unique needs and barriers faced by migrant and refugee women in Australia in priority areas beyond health."

"We must capture experiences of discrimination and racism to fully understand how they impact and interplay with other areas such as paid employment, leadership opportunities, representation and health and education outcomes for migrant and refugee women."

"Harmony Alliance will work with the government to ensure that migrant and refugee women are a forethought in pursuing gender equity in Australia."

Media contact: Nuria Alarcon Lopez, Senior Manager, Harmony Alliance E: <u>secretariat@harmonyalliance.org.au</u> M: 0427 732 073