



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Gen. DAVID MORRISON, NATASHA STOTT DESPOJA, and CLAIRE HOOPER JOIN GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

February 14 2014 to be *One Billion Rising's* Largest Ever International Day of Action

Today, February 14 at Fed Square, a host of prominent Australians will support thousands of Melbournians in rising up, dancing their protest and saying NO to the violence and exploitation experienced by 1 in 3 women around the world.

One Billion Rising Melbourne is part of the global One Billion Rising movement which uses music, dance and joy to bring the community together and make visible the issues of violence, exploitation and injustice towards women and girls.

In 2013, One Billion Rising Melbourne brought over 2,000 people to dance in front of the Fed Square stage, united with millions of people worldwide to seek justice and empowerment for all women and girls. The campaign was endorsed by former Prime Minister, Julia Gillard; along with a host of prominent politicians, entertainers and activists worldwide.

'Rising for justice' is the theme for 2014 – bringing attention to the poor outcomes experienced by women and girls as they try to navigate complex legal and political systems in their struggle to overcome violence and exploitation.

Once again, the Melbourne contribution to the campaign has attracted great interest and high profile support from Australia's political, military, entertainment and community sectors, including the Hon. Governor General Quentin Bryce, Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police Ken Lay, Lt. Gen. David Morrison AO, Hon Magistrate Kate Hawkins, Natasha Stott Despoja AM, Nicole da Silva, Claire Hooper, Assoc. Prof David Wells and Fustina 'Fuzzy' Agolley.

Messages of support have poured in from these and other role models in the Melbourne community.

"In the world today, violence against women is all too common. I look forward to being part of the One Billion Rising movement on February 14th to rise, release, dance and demand justice - Let's eliminate violence against women all around the world!" said Natasha Stott Despoja AM, Ambassador for Women and Girls, and Chair of the Foundation for the Prevention of violence against women and girls.

Acclaimed Australian comedian Claire Hooper commented, "One billion – that's the one in three women who experience violence or abuse in their lifetime. One billion!! And none of them deserve it."

"The people of Melbourne are ready to see different outcomes for women - in their workplaces, at home and as they walk down the street," said Dr Cuong La, White Ribbon Ambassador.

Activities commence at Fed Square main stage **from 6.00pm**, where diverse community music and dance troops from across Melbourne will lead the audience in dance protest, including the famous 'Break the Chain' dance routine. Video broadcast will also showcase statements from prominent Australian organisations and individuals who are dedicated to ending violence against women. At 19.00, the event will 'dance' over Princes

Bridge towards the Queen Victoria Gardens where drummers will continue to energize the crowd as we dance our protest together.

One Billion Rising Melbourne is wholly driven by the passion and dedication of volunteers, drawn from Melbourne's women's, family, disability, entertainment and educational sectors. The event is sponsored by Fed Square and key supporting groups and organisations include Berry St, Women's Legal Service Victoria, SE Centre Against Sexual Assault, Victorian Trades Hall Council, CFMEU, InTouch, Sustainable Living Festival, Domestic Violence Victoria, Gabriela Australia, Women's Housing, Embracing Spirit and iEqual Change.

CONTACTS

To learn more about One Billion Rising Melbourne, contact:

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Or visit our website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts, all of which provide insight into last year's event, intentions for 2014 and the nature of our online community –

Website: www.obrmelbourne.com

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/OBRMelbourne](https://twitter.com/OBRMelbourne)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OneBillionRisingMelbourne?ref=hl>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/obrmelbourne

Further information on One Billion Rising

The One Billion Rising campaign, started in 2012 by Eve Ensler, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS violated. One billion daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, lovers and friends. On 14th February One Billion Rising invites girls, women and those who love them to walk out, dance, rise up, and demand an end to this violence. One Billion Rising will move the earth, activating women and men to dance across every country in collective strength and solidarity across borders. To learn more about international One Billion Rising campaigns visit www.onebillionrising.org.



FED
SQUARE



women's legal
service victoria



inTouch
Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence



sustainable living festival



iEqual Change
Small Change that Changes the World



GABRIELA Australia
A network of Filipino-Australian Women



Domestic
Violence
Victoria
Peak body for domestic violence
services for women & children

