Christian women leaders advocate on justice issues

Care for world's poor and women's leadership on agenda for delegation

Women leaders from across the denominations of Australia's churches and Christian organisations have come together for an advocacy visit to Canberra. PHOTO: MICAH AUSTRALIA
SEPTEMBER 20 2018  Women leaders from a range of Christian denominations have come together for an historic visit to Canberra. In addition to advocating for policies of justice and care for the world’s poor, the cohort will meet with senior ministers and members of parliament from both major political parties, including some women MPs, to thank them for their public service and to encourage them to lead Australia in continuing its commitment to creating a just world.

Micah Australia Executive Director Tim Costello facilitated the coalition group not only to bring Christian women leaders together with a unified voice, but also to talk about the issue of women in leadership. The delegation includes representatives from Anglican Deaconess Ministries, Hillsong Church, the Baptist Church and the Salvation Army.

“Every week, Christians across the country pray for our elected leaders to exercise moral leadership: to make the hard, but right decisions on our behalf,” said Dr Kate Harrison Brennan, CEO of Anglican Deaconess Ministries.

“Our visit to Canberra is a reminder that the Christian faith prioritises the poor and vulnerable, and seeks this type of moral action. Australians know how to be good neighbours, across backyard fences; we want our leaders in Canberra to do this on our behalf, across borders.”

“We see this as an opportunity to encourage our female representatives for their leadership but also to keep crucial justice issues like poverty elimination and refugees on their agenda.”

As part of the trip, the women will meet key ministers and shadow ministers at Parliament House. They are also hoping to put forward the case for continued support for the overseas aid budget and supporting some of the poorest and most vulnerable families around the world.

With only 60 days to go until Universal Children’s Day, the leaders will also be advocating for the release of children and their families from Nauru, joining over 100,000 people who are calling for Kids Off Nauru.

“This feels like a significant moment,” said 2016 Olympic finalist Eloise Wellings, who will accompany the group. Ms Wellings is founder of the NGO Love Mercy. “Too often, the church is known for its internal disagreements that become public, but to have women leaders joining together from across the denominational spectrum shows a significant act of unity and one that we hope will be an encouragement to the government and opposition.”
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