



**THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS**

**16 Days of Activism Campaign**



**WE ARE UNTOLD**

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

- A community centred collaborative initiative between We Are Untold, City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo Against Family Violence, Zonta and Women's Health Loddon Mallee.
- The campaign will foster positive social impact through artistic expression, placing Bendigo as an innovative and progressive city that is a safe and welcoming place to live, work and visit.
- Promoting the 16 days of activism, quotes from male community leaders expressing 'Respect is...' will feature at Pennyweight Outdoor Story Gallery alongside the Women of Gold exhibition to highlight the importance of male role models in eliminating gender based violence.
- For more information about 16 days of Activism: [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence | Safe and Equal](#)



# PROOF OF CONCEPT



## WOMEN OF GOLD

On the right, are quotes from women leading our community featured on billboards at the Women of Gold exhibition, launched on International Women's Day 2024 at Pennyweight Outdoor Story Gallery.

Quotes from male role models will be placed on new billboards alongside Women of Gold to express "Respect is..."



### WOMEN OF GOLD

"Djara women have passed on knowledge, stories, and cultural practice for thousands of generations. We continue to do so today, to keep our culture strong, to keep country strong, and to keep Dja Dja Warring People strong. Like the strong women before me, I strive to be a voice for generations of Djara women to come. I'm determined that the work I do today helps empower them."

— Criselda Smith, General Manager, DJARA

"In a world where gender equity is not yet the norm, I will continue to strive for a future where individuals of any gender feel empowered to work in any role, free from judgment or discrimination, with the respect that they deserve."

— Claudia Berman, Developer, Southern Cross Gold

"Gender bias undermines our social fabric and divides all of us. Together, we can make a difference, and look forward to continuing to participate in processes that aspire to achieve a more equitable community."

— Sue Clarke, Chair, Bendigo Foundation

"Organisations are more successful when leadership and staff are diverse. Yet, discrimination is still systemic. While it has not always been easy, it is much harder for Indigenous people, trans people, people of colour, people with a disability, diversity as a state of being must be achieved."

— Dr John Baker, Associate Professor, La Trobe University

"Learning when to be quiet, and when to be loud is a skill. When you are quiet, you are not conceding defeat, you are playing the long game and winning the war not the battle. You are rising above. When you rise above, rise above loudly, and take others with you. It is only the loudest voices together that can create change."

— Lily Connell, Deputy Youth Mayor

"Shame dies when stories are told. Gender equity reduces vulnerability of abuse."

— Melissa Sill, Director, Adopted Consulting

"Gender equality would change the way our cities, landscapes and organisations look, as well as how they function. In the art world, the glass ceiling I am concerned about is the one that right now holds back the best creative minds. Mentoring and advocating for diverse women can help redraw the gendered divisions that constrain us all."

— Boba Star, Director, La Trobe Art Institute

"Be an example of equity by treating women with disabilities the same way you treat everyone else. Expect us to be just as capable as you in all aspects of life and provide us with assistance only when you are asked."

— Emma Klamm, Hub Station Officer, Women with Disabilities Victoria

"As a local leader, it is very important to me that I demonstrate to my daughters, their friends, and the wider community that our gender should not define you and that young women, in particular, have the opportunity to see what they can do."

— Mary O'Rourke, Councillor, City of Greater Bendigo

"I'm both excited and impatient for a gender equal future in our community – just imagine the innovation, improvements to well-being, and increased economic prosperity when the full potential of all individuals are realised."

— Sally Cantain, CEO, Bendigo Kangan Institute



### WOMEN OF GOLD

"In our Bendigo Chinese community, the deeply entrenched belief that only men can carry our City's Golden Parading Dragons reflects a cultural stagnation, contrasting with the evolution witnessed in Chinese communities elsewhere. Challenging this status quo and advocating for progress has been formidable. Yet, as an Australian Chinese woman with daughters, I'm compelled to persist, in seeking change for a more inclusive and equitable future. Confronting resistance and persevering are necessary, knowing that gender equality remains an ongoing journey. We hold onto hope, recognising there's still a long way ahead."

— Anneli Jack 曹曉琳, Member, Bendigo Chinese Association

"I've always wished the world wasn't so hung up on gender. How we look is no indication of our capacity to be nurturing or strong, good at one thing or another, to lead or to follow. Via image making I'm set on dismantling the stereotypes that limit us all."

— Madi Nivola, Creative Director, MDP Photography and Video

"I've been part of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank since 1980, having held many positions in the Bank in that time, including at Sandhurst, Traralgon where I was appointed the first female CEO in 2003. I'll always remember when I told my parents I had been appointed to the role of CEO and Managing Director of the Bank in 2008. My father said, 'I am not just proud of you for getting the role, but I am proud of you for not having changed who you are.' That meant more to me than any other comment. I could have received."

— Marina Baker, CEO and Managing Director, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank

"I believe that access to education and information, is power." Power that gives people agency to decide to live the life they opt to live."

— Elizabeth Gault, Teen Leader, Inclusion Campaigns Multicultural Services

"Empowering women in STEAM isn't just about breaking barriers; it's about rewriting the narrative of possibility for every girl with a dream and a curious mind, ensuring we 'count her in' at every opportunity."

— Esther Chalmers, Deputy Director, Bendigo Tech School

curiously knows no Gender.

— Alison Van Soest, General Manager, Discovery Centre

"Once you have seen inequality you cannot, unless it, We can all take small steps to create momentum for change which allows the unseen to be seen. Women's good health is founded on hearing and respecting the richness of women's stories in all their diversity and aspiration."

— Tracy Curran, CEO, Women's Health Inclusion Mission

"I see expectations, assumptions and violence surrounding an unhealthy gender ideology, reinforced through behaviours and language that divides people into opposing teams. Let's put humanity before gender and allow one another to thrive as a community of people who respect and celebrate our individual skills, interests, and bodies."

— Zana Jones, Founder, Trans and Gender Diversity Beyond and Beyond

"The road to leadership isn't always planned but, along life's journey, opportunities do present to step up and speak out, on issues you care about. Don't be afraid to do this, it becomes less intimidating the more you do it. Be brave."

And when you've mastered doing this, find a woman and fledgling leader and take her under your wing, count her in and help her leadership journey take flight.

To pay it forward is the best gift women can give to each other."

— Andrea Mitchell, Mayor, City of Greater Bendigo



# THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

- Prior to the launch of the campaign, selected school groups will be sent paper hands for students to decorate and express their thoughts on Respect.
- These hands will be pasted on the walls at Pennyweight Outdoor Story Gallery to form an exhibition of children voicing what respect is- and their vision for a respectful, safe and gender equal future.
- Involving students in the exhibition facilitates education and artistic expression of respectful relationships for the next generation and connects young people to male and female role models in their community.





# INTERACTIVE MEDIA EVENT

- Community leaders will confirm their commitment to the prevention of gender based violence in a interactive media event at the exhibition space.
- Artists will direct a small selected group of children to paste up their decorated hands and students, educators, business and community leaders will be photographed and filmed expressing what “Respect Is” and what it means for our community.
- Dates for event TBC, but will be the week prior to 16 days of Activism (Nov 25th-Dec 10th)



Bendigo Magazine featuring the Women of Gold exhibition at Pennyweight Outdoor Story Gallery For more information about the project and to view the short film please scan QR below.

In 2021, they arrived in the modern migrant city of Bendigo. Over the years, many of the participants have become story tellers, artists, and activists. They have shared their experiences and perspectives on their lives in a way that is both powerful and inspiring. The project has been a journey of discovery, growth, and resilience. It has shown the strength of the human spirit and the power of community. The project has also been a source of pride and joy for the women who have participated in it. They have found a sense of belonging and a place to call home. The project has been a testament to the power of art and the power of women. It has shown the world that women are not just victims of violence, but also survivors and warriors. It has shown the world that women are not just passive, but also active and engaged. The project has been a source of inspiration and hope for many people. It has shown the world that women are not just the future, but also the present. The project has been a source of pride and joy for the women who have participated in it. They have found a sense of belonging and a place to call home. The project has been a testament to the power of art and the power of women. It has shown the world that women are not just victims of violence, but also survivors and warriors. It has shown the world that women are not just passive, but also active and engaged. The project has been a source of inspiration and hope for many people. It has shown the world that women are not just the future, but also the present.

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