



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 17 September 2014

*Chair: Mr Luke Simpkins MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

AFP to share views on rights of women and girls

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) will appear before a parliamentary inquiry investigating human rights barriers facing women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia-Pacific region.

The AFP will be joined by academic experts and NGOs with an interest in women's and gender issues at a day-long public hearing before the Human Rights sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade on Thursday.

Witnesses will share their views and experiences with the sub-committee on advancing gender equality in the region.

Issues to be discussed at the hearing include violence against women and girls, women in conflict zones, leadership and political participation, economic development and employment and access to justice.

Sub-committee Chair Luke Simpkins MP said it is essential to canvass the expertise of all key stakeholders for a thorough examination and discussion of the regionally specific challenges that face women and girls.

"The sub-committee has already heard from very notable leaders in promoting gender equality in the region", he said. "We have gained some valuable insight and heard compelling evidence from innovative programs aimed at empowering women and girls. We are looking forward to hearing more thought-provoking evidence from an impressive program of experts and community groups."

Public Hearing

Date/Time Thursday 18 September 2014, 9:15am

Location Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Witnesses Various university academic experts; ANU Development Policy Centre; Australian Council for International Development; Australian Federal Police; UN Women Australia; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; YWCA; Australian Baha'i Community and the Gavi Alliance.

Further information on the inquiry is available on the Committee's website at www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt.

The proceedings will be audio webcast live on:

<http://www.apf.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament>

For media comment: contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP, on (02) 6277 4009 or via Mr Bill Coghlan on the same number. For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318 or visit the committee website listed above.