



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 5 May 2015

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

*Chair: The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

Law, justice and economic development of women and girls

Women's economic development, law and justice and the effectiveness of Australian Aid programs are all on the agenda for a public hearing, to be conducted as part of the parliamentary inquiry into the human rights issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean-Asia Pacific region.

The Human Rights sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hold two days of hearings in Canberra on 6 and 7 May.

Witnesses scheduled to participate include:

- Dr Jeni Klugman, a fellow at the Kennedy School of Government's Women in Public Policy Program at Harvard University (formerly Director of Gender and Development at the World Bank Group);
- The Hon Diana Bryant AO, Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia; and
- the former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, the Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC.

Other witnesses include the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Dr Anke Hoeffler from the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University and other expert witnesses who will address issues including:

- Violence and conflict
- Forced work and Slavery
- Microfinance
- Children and legal rights

Public Hearing Information

Date/Time: Wednesday 6 May, 8:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday 7 May, 8:30am - 2:00pm
Location: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

The inquiry commenced in February 2014 and has already heard evidence from many expert organisations and individuals. The complete public hearing program and further information on the inquiry is available on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt

The proceedings will be audiocast live on <http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament>.

For media comment: Contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP via Mr Jeremy Greenwood on 0413 280 799. For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 4318