

## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO  
Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF



### Australian Section

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP  
Minister for Indigenous Australians

The National Indigenous Australians Agency  
[haveyoursay.voice.niaa.gov.au/submissions](https://haveyoursay.voice.niaa.gov.au/submissions)

### **An Indigenous Voice to Parliament**

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a ground-breaking initiative from the Indigenous Peoples and must be honoured. After over some 200 years of warfare, dispossession and disrespect, the Indigenous Peoples have come together to seek a place and a Voice in governmental arrangements and to be recognised as partners in the decision-making process in Indigenous Affairs.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Australia, founded in 1915, is an organisation focused on advocating for peace and human rights. The history of Indigenous and settler society has been fraught with violence against our Indigenous citizens. To begin to address past omissions we urge the government to honour its election commitment to facilitate a referendum. This should be done as soon as possible.

The enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament. Important too is that the Voice is enshrined in the constitution so that it cannot be overturned by parliamentary legislation in the future. Also, the Constitution is an important instrument of government and an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution is vital. This will allow the recognition of the legitimacy and authority of the Indigenous Voice and facilitate its successful implementation.

The Constitution is also a cultural document that reflects the identity and values and aspirations of the nation. The constitutional enshrinement of the Voice will provide a great opportunity for all Australians to embrace Indigenous issues that are of significance to us all. It will change the focus of the nation that would now be committed to hearing the voices of first nations people and developing a respectful relationship with them.

We look forward to being able to campaign around Constitutional Recognition of a Voice to Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Lane  
Secretary  
WILPF Australia

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