



Engender  
Equality

16 February 2024

**Submission to the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2023**

I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed amendments outlined in the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2023. While we appreciate the intention behind these reforms to align with contemporary national and international principles of child protection, we have significant concerns regarding the potential implications of these amendments on the agency of affected families and communities, the lack of evidence supporting their effectiveness, and the allocation of resources.

There is insufficient evidence to suggest that the amendments will effectively achieve their intended outcomes. While the bill introduces various measures such as enhanced disclosure schemes and strengthened penalties, there is a lack of empirical data demonstrating the efficacy of these strategies in preventing child sex abuse and reducing recidivism among offenders. Without evidence-based approaches, there is a risk of implementing costly and ineffective policies that may have unintended consequences.

Instead of focusing on monitoring and punitive measures, resources would be better allocated to prevention activities and support for victim-survivors. Prevention efforts should prioritise education, early intervention, and community-based initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of sexual offending and promoting healthy relationships. Additionally, adequate support services should be provided to victim-survivors to ensure they receive the necessary care and assistance to heal from their trauma.

While the objectives of the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2023 are commendable, the proposed reforms lack a victim-centred approach, evidence of effectiveness, and appropriate resource allocation to evidence based responses.

Thank you for considering our feedback on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

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