

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA): Mapping Domestic Priorities and International Commitments

This document maps ERA's domestic advocacy priorities against international gender equality and women's rights frameworks and commitments.

National Women's Alliances and the Sustainable Development Goals

The empowerment of women and girls, and achieving gender equality, are preconditions for achieving the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) set out in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) to eliminate global poverty and inequality. As the SDGs apply to all countries, Australia is expected to establish national frameworks to achieve these goals and report against progress. The SDGs, and Australia's international commitments to achieve them, present a critical opportunity for the Australian National Women's Alliances to enhance advocacy work and increase impact to advance women's rights and gender equality in Australia.

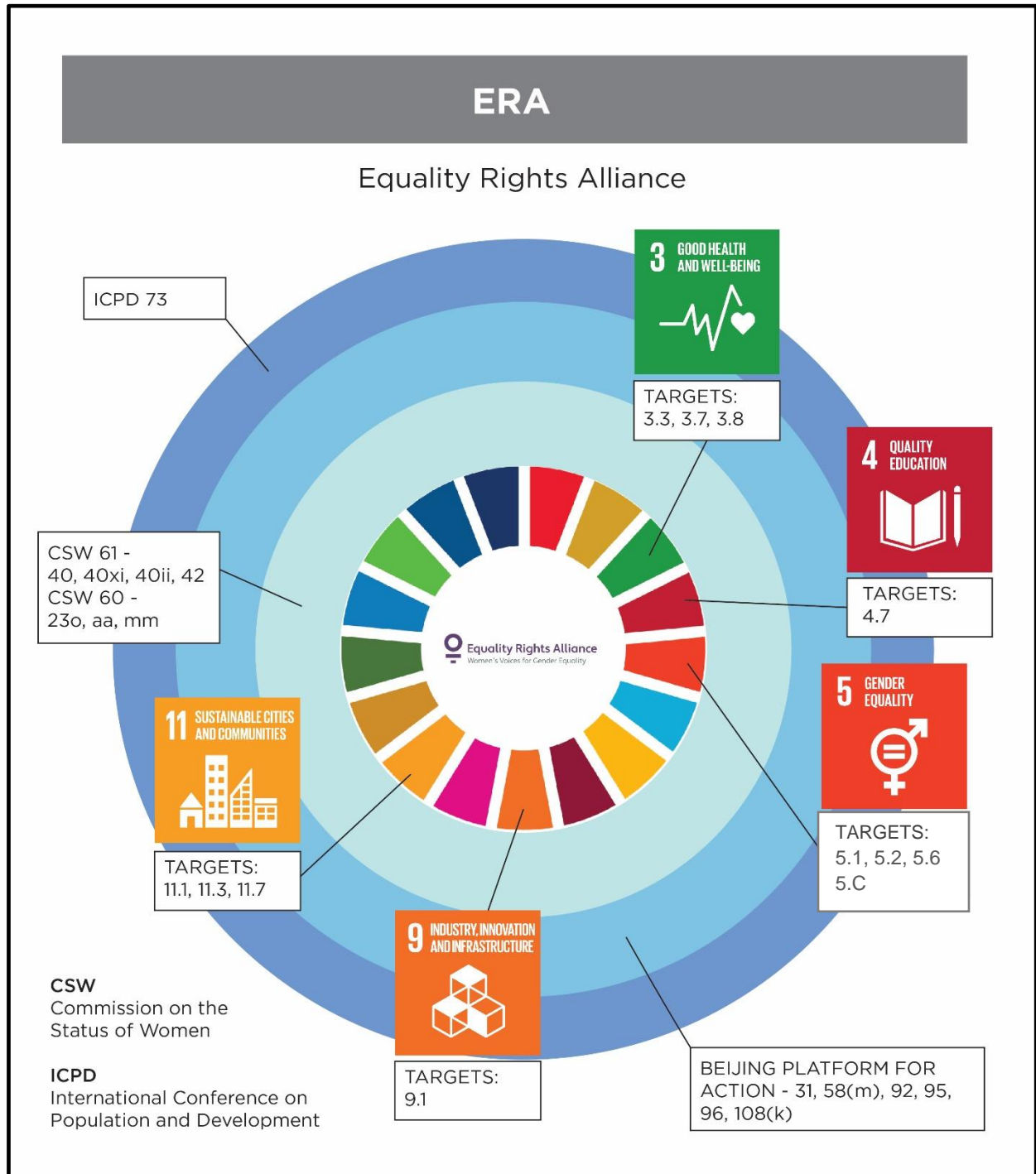
The Equality Rights Alliance

The [Equality Rights Alliance \(ERA\)](#) is a network of 62 NGOs and social enterprises, the lead organisation being the YWCA Australia. ERA advocates for women's equality, leadership and diversity, and works towards strengthening women's equality in law, housing, health, and economic and social policy.

Key Australian Government Policy Commitments

National Policy Commitments	Relevance to ERA
National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and Transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (being revised in 2018-19 to National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA)).	✓
Respectful Relationships Education As outlined in <i>Our Watch</i> , 2015. Respectful Relationships Education in Schools - Evidence Paper	✓

International Frameworks and Commitments



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ERA Priorities

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

5C Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.



5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.



5B Enhance use of enabling technology to promote women's empowerment.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls.



5A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.



5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices including FGM and child marriage.



5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care.



5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation on all levels of decision-making.



Each component of SDG 5 - from eliminating all forms of violence against women, recognising and valuing unpaid care work, to ensuring women have equal rights to economic resources- intersects with or is related to ERA's key advocacy priorities: *affordable housing; sexuality and respectful relationships education; and gender analysis in budgeting policy development.*

➡ The [Agreed Conclusions of the 61st Commission on the Status of Women](#) (Priority theme: *Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work*) has strong links across all of ERA's priority areas, reflecting the interconnected relationship between women's economic rights, violence and housing affordability.

Priority 1: Affordable Housing

➡ Gender disparity in housing affordability, often caused by structural social and economic gender inequalities, has significant implications for women's economic security, safety and workforce participation (relevant to the work of all Alliances).

Sustainable Development Goals

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
Target	Indicator
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	n/a to housing affordability 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2km of an all-season road 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and	11.7.1 Average share of built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

61st CSW (2017) Agreed Conclusions

40. The Commission urges governments at all levels and, as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, the private sector, employer organizations and trade unions, as applicable, to take the following actions: (s) Improve the security and safety of women on the journey to and from work and the security and safety of women and girls on the journey to and from educational facilities through gender-responsive rural development strategies and urban planning and infrastructure, including sustainable, safe, accessible and affordable public transportation systems, street lighting, and separate and adequate sanitation facilities, so as to facilitate women's access to places, products, services and economic opportunities.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Beijing Platform for Action - Chapter II

31. Many women face particular barriers because of various diverse factors in addition to their gender. Often these diverse factors isolate or marginalize such women. They are, inter alia, denied their human rights, they lack access or are denied access to education and vocational training, employment, housing and economic self-sufficiency and they are excluded from decision-making processes. Such women are often denied the opportunity to contribute to their communities as part of the mainstream.

Beijing Platform for Action - Chapter IV

A. Women and Poverty

Strategic objective A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty

58. (m) Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land by, among other things, removing all obstacles to access, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household;

C. Women and Health

92. Lack of food and inequitable distribution of food for girls and women in the household, inadequate access to safe water, sanitation facilities and fuel supplies, particularly in rural and poor urban areas, and deficient housing conditions, all overburden women and their families and have a negative effect on their health. Good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life, and the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment.

K. Women and the environment

Strategic objective K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspective in policies and programmes for sustainable development

256. (k) Support the development of women's equal access to housing infrastructure, safe water, and sustainable and affordable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, biomass and other renewable sources, through participatory needs assessments, energy planning and policy formulation at the local and national levels;

Priority 2: Sexuality and respectful relationships education

➡ Components of sexual and reproductive health and rights are also found in other SDGs, demonstrating how these issues cuts across all areas of sustainable development and their importance to realising the 2030 Agenda.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	
Target	Indicator
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into	n/a to respectful relationships education 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years)

national strategies and programmes	per 1,000 women in that age group
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases	n/a to respectful relationships education
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	n/a to respectful relationships education
GOAL 4: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	
Target	Indicator
4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	4.7.1 <i>Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment</i>

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

61st CSW (2017) Agreed Conclusions

40. (x) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the fulfilment of their economic rights, independence and empowerment;

60th Commission on the Status of Women

23. (o) Ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on

Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Beijing Platform for Action - Chapter IV

C. Women and health

Strategic objective C.3. Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues

95. ...full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality.

96. The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences.

108. (k) Give full attention to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and, in particular, to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

The International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action

Adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 5–13 September 1994

7.3...full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality.

Priority 3: Gender Policy Analysis and Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Sustainable Development Goals

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	
Target	Indicator
5.C: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	5.C.1: Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

61st CSW (2017) Agreed Conclusions

40. (q) Take concrete steps to support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensure that all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;

40. (ii) Continue developing and enhancing standards and methodologies at the national and international levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics and data on the formal and informal economy, inter alia, on women's poverty, income and asset distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-making, so as to measure progress for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, by strengthening national statistical capacity, including by enhancing the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance for enabling developing countries to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age, income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

42. The Commission calls upon Governments to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

60th Commission on the Status of Women

23. (aa) Support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensure that all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation; (mm) Develop and enhance standards and methodologies at the national and international levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics on, inter alia, poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, participation at all levels of decision-making and violence against women, to measure progress for women and girls with regard to sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

25. The Commission also calls upon Governments to enhance coherence and coordination of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders, where appropriate, to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.