

**Submission
No 99**

COERCIVE CONTROL IN DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 1 February 2021

Partially
Confidential

To the Committee of the Coercive Control Committee,

I am writing as a victim-survivor of gendered violence, to express my opposition to utilising government funds to introduce a new crime of coercive control. My main reasons for this are that I believe the majority of victim-survivors will not experience additional supports or justice through these legislative changes and that the funds could be better utilised towards supports that are more direct. I am also concerned that marginalised communities may be negatively impacted by the changes.

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Conclusions

Unfortunately, I think that NSW is a long way away from being able to introduce coercive control legislation in a safe manner. In many cases such as my mother's, coercive control is a complex crime, and I do not think that the police are the correct organisation to be implementing a response to it. The police do not have a good track record of policing the current legislation, let alone more nuanced and complex crimes. Additionally I have concerns for First Nations women, and other

marginalised women who are already over-policed. Many people of colour are calling for community led responses and to de-fund the police- not to give them additional funding. We need to find options in consultation with these communities, which will support them to address the violence in their own communities. We cannot copy and paste the laws from overseas, as they do not have these First Nations populations, and we can't risk further harm.

People need justice and support for what has happened to them, but I don't think this legislative change is the right option to create the most positive change. My mum was like most women in not going to the police. Because of the fact most women don't go to the police, I think that the majority of resources should go to educating people in the community to know what to do when they see or experience domestic violence. As we exist in a system with finite resources, I believe the effort and money of introducing coercive control legislation could be better used to fund community education campaigns, and funds for women's services to be able to actually help all the women who attempt to access them. If the committee is looking to implement justice-based strategies, I would be in support of exploring alternative options to criminalisation such as changing the wording of existing legislation, funding restorative justice options for domestic violence or Aboriginal healing and justice projects. Furthermore, I think that implementing changes to the child protection system to better protect children is key, due to the life-long impacts of experiencing violence on children. I think community education and community led options are the key to creating widespread change, protection and healing for families like mine.

Kind regards,

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