

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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PRESS RELEASE

EQUITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
#EmbraceEquity



The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia joined the world-wide celebrations for International Women's Day, as women across the globe continue to strive for equity, and efforts to close the gender pay gap are gaining momentum.

At a special event at Olympic Hall on Wednesday 8 March, this year's theme **#EmbraceEquity** led the conversation as two distinguished guest speakers shared their stories and knowledge on gender equity and the struggle that is still in progress.

The Hon Irene Pnevmatikos, Member of the Legislative Council, representing the Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs, said more women than men are challenged with disadvantages in the workplace.

"In South Australia, as it is everywhere, gender inequality is the key driver of disadvantage for women," Ms Pnevmatikos said.

"Recent statistics show that overall, 70 per cent of part-time jobs were held by women, and they are twice as likely to be engaged in insecure work than their male counterparts," she said.

But the main issue concerning gender inequality is the gender pay gap.

"Closing the gender pay gap requires systemic and cultural change."

"Our government has established the South Australian Gender Pay Gap Taskforce, which brings experts from across government, non-government, business and industries to provide expert advice to our government on how to address the issue," she concluded.

Similar comments were made by the Community's General Secretary, Ms Smaro Skordas, in her opening statement.

"If we want to succeed as a Nation, we must start with the education, liberation and empowerment of our girls," Ms Skordas said.

In closing, Ms Skordas said that she felt proud that out of the 15 Administrative Council members, eight were women.

Chair of the South Australian Multicultural Commission Adriana Christopoulos' "recipe" for succeeding in bringing and restoring equity, was an interesting approach as she made a comparison equivalent to using the right ingredients to make the perfect cake.

"Achieving outcomes of equity has included equal parts of education, equal parts of opportunity, equal parts of courage and equal parts of hard work," Mrs Christopoulos said.

The Chair of the Commission continued, saying that even though progress has been made, more is needed.

GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL OF ARCHANGELS
MICHAEL & GABRIEL

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF Ss. CONSTANTINE & HELEN

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF SAINT NICHOLAS

RIDLEYTON GREEK HOME
FOR THE AGED

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

OLYMPIC DANCE SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS & COMMUNITY RADIO

ELDERLY COMMUNITY CENTRE

GREEK WOMEN'S CENTRE

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIPS

GREEK COMMUNITY
PUBLISHING HOUSE

GREEK WRITERS GUILD

RESOURCE LIBRARY

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
CHOIR

HELLENIC CULTURAL FESTIVAL
"ODYSSEY"

The event continued with a touching presentation by Adelaide-based journalist and former Chief Editor of the Greek Herald newspaper Ms Argyro Vourdoumpa.

Ms Vourdoumpa whose career launched in Greece and expanded in Southeast Asia and Australia, took the audience on an emotional journey through her life path, while sharing some shocking statistics concerning women.

“Women with a disability, culturally diverse women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 32 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital due to domestic violence,” Ms Vourdoumpa revealed.

The former Chief Editor spoke about her experiences in Australia and how rewarding it was for her as a female journalist to be able to give a voice to those who needed it.

She also praised Australian-Greek women for being strong and inspiring.

“We, Australian women of Greek heritage, are incredibly resilient and resourceful, and we have proven this many times.”

“But we need support across sectors to achieve our potential in Australia,” she said.

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, as part of celebrating International Women’s Day, acknowledged two of its female volunteers for their invaluable contribution towards the Community.

This year, the two Award recipients were Mrs Georgina Vlachos, former Chair of the Saint Constantine and Helen Women’s Fellowship and Mrs Panagiota Stamatopoulos, a long-serving volunteer.

Mr Peter Gardiakos, President of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia and Mrs Hellas Lucas, Chair of the Cultural Committee presented the Awards to the two recipients, thanking them for their ongoing support and services to the Organisation.

Emcee at the event was Miss Anastasia Mavrides, Administrative Council Member and Assistant Co-ordinator of the GOCSA Dance Academy.

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia wishes to thank Dr Demeter Tsounis and Meraki Ensemble for musically enhancing the event.

Amongst the official guests who attended the International Women’s Day function were, the Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC, Ms Olivia Savvas MP, Member for Newland, the Mayor of the City of Charles Sturt Ms Angela Evans, the Mayor of the City of West Torrens Mr Michael Coxon, Councillor Mary Couros from the City of Adelaide, and West Torrens Councillor Zoi Papafilopoulos.

For the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia

Smaro Skordas
General Secretary