

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sydneysiders Called to Stand in Silence for Women and Children Killed in 2025

- All welcome at Martin Place event to commemorate the 39 women and 15 children killed in 2025
- Tabitha Acret, advocate and mother of 22 yo Mackenzie Anderson to speak
- Remembrance ceremony to begin at 12 noon, Tuesday 25th Nov

No More Empty Shoes Vigil.

Tuesday, November 25th, 12pm at Martin Place, Gadigal Country

39 women and 15 children in Australia have been killed by their intimate partners, parents and family members as of November 4th this year.

On **Tuesday 25 November**, the NSW Vigil Collective are calling on the Sydney community to take action at midday by gathering in Martin Place for the No More Empty Shoes Vigil.

The remembrance ceremony will begin at 12:00 noon, with impactful speeches followed by the reading of names and the laying of roses to honour every woman and child whose life was lost to domestic and family violence this year.

At the heart of the vigil are lived-experience voices who have turned grief into advocacy.

Tabitha Acret, mother of **22-year-old Mackenzie Anderson**, will speak in her daughter's honour. Mackenzie was stabbed 78 times by a paroled ex-partner. Since her murder, Tabitha has fought relentlessly for stronger protections — with her campaign helping influence a proposal by the NSW Government to introduce a 25-year minimum non-parole period for domestic violence killers.

She will be joined by **Corey Anderson**, a proud **Gamilaroi father and frontline support worker**, who draws on his lived experience to work directly with men,



families, and communities impacted by violence to challenge cycles of harm through accountability and connection.

Pairs of empty shoes will be displayed, representing each woman and the children who should still be here. Shoes once put on by mothers and their children racing to school, friends lacing up for their morning run and little ones playing in the yard.

This year's vigil highlights the disproportionate toll on First Nations women. Latest AIHW data (2023–24) show First Nations women are hospitalised for family-violence assault at 27 times the rate of non-Indigenous women.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's safety, and their leadership, must be central to the nation's response.

"These women are more than numbers. They were beloved daughters, sisters, friends, mothers. Their shoes will stand where they can no longer stand themselves" said a spokesperson for the NSW Vigil Collective



A Call to Action For Men, Too

Domestic and family violence is not a “women’s issue.”

“It can be hard to know what to say or where to start but standing beside us is a step in a positive direction,” said organisers.

Bring your colleagues. Walk down on your lunch break. Stand with us.

The installation of the shoes at Martin Place will be available for viewing from 8am - 2pm on November 25.

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The NSW Vigil Collective comprises of the following 32 organisations:



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