

POLICY LAB – GENDERED VIOLENCE (proposed date – Friday 8th May 2026)

⇒ *20-25 participants over 1 day to develop a policy action to help combat gendered violence*

Do you believe better policy could help address gendered violence? How can responses to gendered violence be improved through public policy? We want to hear from you.

The [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children](#) provides a framework for policy and action stating that “the social, cultural, political and economic factors that drive this gendered violence” must be addressed to end it. Religion plays a key role in shaping cultural and social factors. We’re interested in exploring how religious ideas and communities of faith can help shape policy to combat violence.

The Policy Lab method brings together stakeholders, researchers, and front-line workers to inform policy development around a specific theme or issue, in this case combatting **Gendered Violence**. Representatives from Respect Victoria and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing will also be invited.

In preparing for a Policy Lab, The Wesley Centre’s researchers will undertake an analysis of the policy context to inform deliberation on the policy question that is the focus of the lab. This content will be provided in a policy briefing pack that is sent to participants to provide a baseline of knowledge as well as information to prepare them for participation.

The day will be facilitated by Dr David Baker, whose team developed the Policy Lab process, and will progress in two parts:

- (1) table groups explore the evidence and as a group they prioritise policy options, with top priorities becoming the focus of the second half, (lunch provided)
- (2) small groups consider the barriers and instruments for priority policy options.

Following the lab, a draft policy brief is shared for feedback. The final policy brief will be published and participants are encouraged to promote the policy through their networks, to engage with broader policy coalitions, and a representative group will meet with government to present the policy brief.

If you are interested in participating in our Policy Lab, please register your interest via contact@thewesleycentre.org stating your name, organisation, and interest in this topic.

Robyn Whitaker, Director of The Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Policy