

THE Daily Telegraph

Men's attitudes must change: Kevin Rudd

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Article from: **Daily Telegraph**

September 18, 2008 12:00am

KEVIN Rudd believes Australian men need to change their attitudes in an effort to reduce the number of women experiencing violence.

In a speech delivered to the annual White Ribbon Foundation White Tie Gala dinner last night, Mr Rudd said Australians could not afford to be silent any longer in what he described as, "the great silent crime of our age".

"As a nation, the time has well and truly come to have a national conversation ... about how it could still be the case that in the year 2008, half a million Australian women could have experienced violence from their partner," he said.

"And the objective is to turn this terrible statistic around. And it is my gender, our gender, Australian men who are responsible."

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that one in three women had experienced physical violence while one in five had experienced sexual violence.

Mr Rudd said the time had come that violence should no longer be tolerated by anyone. "The time has come for us as a culture, as a country and as a nation to draw a line in the sand, once and for all," he said.

Mr Rudd announced the Federal Government would invest up to \$2 million in research and analysis of Australian community attitudes towards violence against women.

He also awarded Police Federation of Australia chief executive Mark Burgess as the winner of this year's White Ribbon Ambassador Award.

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