

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*  
*Ligue internationale des femmes pour la paix et la liberté*  
*Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad*  
*Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit*

**Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO**

**Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO and UNICEF**

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SA Branch



10<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The Hon Mike Rann, MP  
Premier and Minister for Social Inclusion  
200 Victoria Square  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Rann,

We write in reference to various public comments by your Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Foley. While the grave implications of the substance of Mr Foley's statements are the subject of separate correspondence with you and members of your Ministry, we write now in particular concerning Mr Foley's language.

Over recent months, Mr Foley has demonstrated a pattern of immoderate public speech. Indeed, it has become clear that Mr Foley is in the habit of using oppressive language.

We note, for instance, that Mr Foley was quoted on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in a number of media outlets as having spoken thus in reference to prisoners in our state's penal system:

“What we're making very clear is that if we've got to rack 'em, pack 'em and stack 'em, we will.”

More recently, he has described peace activists, among whom we number ourselves, as “feral low-life” (*Adelaide Now*, September 7, 2008).

We can only presume from these of his public comments that Mr Foley believes that he may stand to gain some electoral advantage by portraying himself – and your Government – as “tough and macho”. This is not the case. You will no doubt be aware

that Mr Foley's comments are unwelcome to many women voters in SA, and, we suspect, to many men as well. In a changed electoral climate when the Northern Territory and West Australian Labor Governments have struggled in recent times to maintain their electoral advantage, we believe that Mr Foley has become a liability for SA Labor.

Of more concern to us, however, is the climate of intolerance and xenophobia which is fueled and cultivated in the community by such comments in the mouth of a person who holds a high office in the state government. This is especially the case when there is apparently no attempt within the government to moderate Mr Foley's style of language. Mr Foley's language is not simply flamboyant; it is speech of hatred and violence and, as such, is indefensible.

We therefore respectfully urge that Mr Foley be encouraged to undertake an appropriate anger management course and that he be counselled against the use of immoderate, oppressive and violent language.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Picone  
Coordinator (SA branch)

CC.:

Hon Gail Gago, Minister for the Status of Women  
Ms Frances Bedford, Member for Florey  
Ms Steph Key, Member for Ashford