



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMITTEE (SA) INC.

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MEDIA RELEASE

A young woman who set up an organisation to help children experiencing domestic violence after her mother was stabbed to death is one of nine winners of awards at today's International Women's Day Adelaide Luncheon.

Atena Abrahamzadeh, who with her brother Arman and sister Anita, established the Zahra Foundation, was joint winner with Nadia Baldassi-Winderlich of the Young Women's Community and Spirit Award, given by the IWD Committee of SA.

Ms Abrahamzadeh and Ms Baldassi-Winderlich - 23, a law graduate who volunteers with refugee associations and disadvantaged women's groups – were presented with their award at the annual Luncheon at the Adelaide Convention Centre by Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close MP.

The IWD Committee of SA also gave out four Irene Bell Awards for women who have made outstanding contributions in South Australia – including two longstanding Members of Parliament who have campaigned for women's rights all their lives.

These awards were presented by the Minister for the Status of Women, Zoe Bettison MP.

The Irene Krastev Awards for women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds – convened by the Migrant Women's Lobby Group of SA and given out at the annual IWD Luncheon for more than 15 years – were presented by former Minister for Multicultural Affairs and now Chair of the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission the Hon Grace Portolesi.

IWD Committee President Joan Russell announced at today's celebration that the Committee, established in 1938 and the longest-running organisation of its kind in Australia, will become the International Women's Day Association of South Australia as of today.

The new association will continue to organise an annual celebration of women while also focussing on actively raising the status of women by promoting, encouraging and recognising the contribution of South Australian women in fields such as community involvement, leadership, volunteering and mentoring, across all commercial and non-commercial sectors.

FURTHER INFORMATION: awards@iwdcommitteesa.org.au