



**President Rev Charissa Suli's  
2026 International Women's Day Message**

Mālō e lelei friends,

As we mark International Women's Day, I give thanks to God for the women of the Uniting Church in Australia, and for women across our schools, agencies and communities.

This year's theme is 'Balance the Scales'. It is a call to justice; a reminder that equality does not happen by accident.

Where dignity is diminished, the scales are not balanced. And where voices are silenced, justice is incomplete.

Throughout scripture, women have courageously led and proclaimed God's saving work. Their witness is not secondary to the gospel; it is woven into it.

And that same spirit, it is alive among us today.

Across our church, women preach, teach, lead. They advocate, mentor, care and they pray. Some are visible, many serve quietly.

All of it matters.

And reading your nominations has been a gift. Each story a reminder of the faithful leadership and quiet strength that is woven through our church.

And, as a Pasifika woman, I think of the mothers, the aunties and grandmothers who carried faith for us. We stand because they stood.

As a mother of three daughters and a granddaughter, this day matters deeply. Because I long for a church and a world where every woman and girl lives with dignity, has her voice heard, experiences equity, and is liberated to lead with the gifts God has given her.

To balance the scales means we do more than celebrate. We act. We lift one another up, we make space at the table, and challenge what diminishes women. We reshape systems so justice is real.

Today, we honour all women and girls in our church, our communities, and across our nation and around the world.

We give thanks to God for you, and we commit ourselves to walking this path together.

Happy International Women's Day.