**IN THE WORDS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES...**

We asked what they wanted people to know about preventing violence against women with disabilities and this is what they told us:

1. The value of lived experience and voices of women with disabilities is important. We need to be heard rather than be a footnote.
2. Ask us directly for our input – lived experience is expertise.
3. People lack knowledge about disability – educate and challenge stereotypes about women with disabilities.
4. Promote disability pride - disability is not a tragedy or something to be ashamed of.
5. Disability is everywhere. Like most people, women with disabilities have relationships, jobs, friends, and university degrees.
6. Our job is not to inspire, we are productive and contribute to society – recognise our value.
7. Disability identity looks different for each person - challenge the narrow focus.
8. True representations of women with disabilities are crucial – we’re not all celebrities, make us visible.
9. No disability is more important than another – reject the idea of a hierarchy of disability.
10. Language matters – challenge stereotypes and words that imply weakness, alienate women, or suggest disability is a reason for violence.
11. Our disabilities don’t exclude us, systems and social structures do – work within the social model of disability.
12. Disability isn't a justification to use violence against us – we have the right for safety and respect.
13. We experience different types of violence – challenge all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities.
14. We are productive and contribute to society – recognise our value.
15. Economic participation is essential – remunerate our contributions equitably.
16. Accessibility is so much more than disability – universal design benefits everyone.

If you or your organisation is interested in learning more about consulting our Experts, please contact Natasha Siryj, Gender and Disability, Project Officer, natasha.siryj@wdv.org.au