PETITION IN RELATION TO THE LAYING OF CHARGES IN CASES OF DEATHS RESULTING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia believe that the charge of 'unlawful assault causing death' should not apply in cases where it can be established that there has been a history of physical violence and abuse. The nature of this charge implies that a one-off momentary act of violence has caused the death, and does not appropriately reflect the history and circumstances of the crime. These charges have been laid in cases that concern the violent deaths of women and children by reason of domestic and family violence.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to urge the Attorney General that he review the laws pertaining to domestic violence, and in particular s 281 of the Criminal Code (WA) 1913, to ensure that there is an appropriate legislative framework for cases involving a history of violence and abuse.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

Please return this Petition to PO Box 8437, Perth Business Centre WA 6849. This petition must not be altered and only original signatures are permitted. Faxed copies of signatures cannot be accepted.