

1891.  
VICTORIA.

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# CRIMES ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.

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## PETITION.

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND THE HONORABLE THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF VICTORIA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Memorial of the General Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of  
Victoria, held in Melbourne on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of November ultimo,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

That your Memorialists represent a union of Christian women, numbering, in this colony alone,  
3,250 members.

That your Memorialists are deeply concerned at the serious and lamentable delays that have  
occurred in the final passing of the measure for the better protection of women and girls, which passed the  
Legislative Council of this colony in the session of 1885, and more recently, and for the third time, in the  
month of September last.

That, at the instance of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Victoria, a Memorial was, on  
the 7th of October last, presented to your Honorable House praying for the early passing of the measure in  
question (the Criminal Law Amendment Bill) signed on behalf of a large and representative meeting of the  
women of Victoria, held at the Melbourne Athenæum on the 17th of the preceding month, and was ordered  
to be referred to the Committee on the said Bill.

That in view of the wholly inadequate age up to which in this colony the protection of the law is at  
present extended to young girls, your Memorialists earnestly pray that your Honorable House will, without  
delay, pass through its remaining stages the said Bill, which was read therein for the first time on the 30th  
of September last, or at least pass those clauses of it which extend the term of protection for girls from the  
age of twelve years to that of sixteen, and so assimilate the law of Victoria in this respect with that of  
Great Britain and of the colonies of Tasmania and South Australia.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Signed for, and in accordance with, resolution of the Convention,

MARGARET McLEAN, President (*pro tem.*).  
MARIE E. KIRK, Secretary and Convener.

Melbourne, Russell-street,  
15th December, 1891.

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*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 15th December, 1891.*

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[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; Printing (760 copies), £1 5s. 0d.]