

WIB'S INFLUENTIAL WOMAN OF THE MONTH

Grace Tame

As university students, we are blessed to be surrounded by an influx of influential women, from professors, to mentors and even peers. In the face of a fourth wave of feminism, activists such as Grace Tame prove to be a pillar of influence, inspiring women from all walks of life.

Tame is an advocate for survivors of sexual assault and was named Australian of the Year in 2021 and shortly after led the March4Justice in Hobart. She also developed the #LetHerSpeak campaign alongside journalist Nina Funnell which led to the amendment of legislation to allow victims of sex crimes to be publicly identified if they choose.

Through her activism, Tame works tirelessly to create a safer future for women everywhere, drawing from her own experiences of abuse to encourage. Over the past few years, Tame has admirably used her platform to address a long history of power imbalance, corruption and ingrained sexism and “spurred a cultural reckoning as the leader we needed” - Women’s Agenda.



Just recently, Tame caused quite a stir with the ‘Grace Tame smile’, when she refused to smile for press photos with Scott Morrison. Morrison has repeatedly failed to address women’s issues in his politics and rectify the culture of abuse that exists in his parliament. In this moment, she took a stand for women everywhere who have too long been told to smile and present politeness in uncomfortable situations. How many times has a man told you to ‘lighten up’ or ‘crack a smile would you’ to brush off inappropriate behaviours? Probably more than once.

This incident is just one of many where Grace Tame has shown young women that we do not need to confine ourselves to the expectations of men, the media and an entire system of sexism.

Grace Tame is changing the future and shaking things up for a generation of strong, courageous and intelligent women who will not stand for abuse in any form. She is an inspiring, positive influence for women everywhere.

- **Victoria Loutas**

