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## Leaders urged to stand up to men's violence

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Anti-domestic violence organisation the White Ribbon Foundation says John Setka's conduct has "no place in Australian leadership", as Anthony Albanese pressed on with his plan to have the construction union leader expelled from the ALP next week.

Left-wing union officials in Victoria yesterday offered support to Mr Setka after he pleaded guilty to harassment charges and his wife, Emma Walters, revealed herself as his victim.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union Victorian secretary Luba Grigorovitch, a friend of the couple, said she supported "John on his journey for change". "I am prepared to give a man committed to change the opportunity to learn, heal and lead by example," she said.

White Ribbon chief executive Delia Donovan said leaders needed to play an active role in ending men's violence against women.

"Any organisation, corporation or union must have a culture that does not condone and indeed calls out any behaviour or language that disrespects, denigrates or incites abuse of women," Ms Donovan said. "They should set the example of how to end violence against women by standing up, speaking out and acting when they see and hear abuse.

"Behaviour like this has no place in Australian leadership, or anywhere else.

"That includes John Setka's behaviour."

No to Violence chief executive Jacqui Watt said: "The danger of giving a message that says 'I'm standing by my man' is it takes us back to that time when women didn't complain."

Ms Watt said when charges were pressed or withdrawn, it was important to ask how much fear was involved. "That's a key determination of whether there's a pattern of violence," she said.

Mr Albanese said Mr Setka's decision to plead guilty to "serious" charges added to the case that the union leader had brought the Labor Party into disrepute.

Asked whether the Labor Party should still take millions of dollars from the CFMEU if Mr Setka remained as secretary, he said "that is a decision for them and the Victorian branch".

"But do I support engagement with the construction union? Yes, I do," he told Melbourne radio 3AW.

A group of Victorian unions calling itself the Industrial Left and includes the CFMEU, said ending family violence required "sophisticated responses, not knee-jerk reactions".

They said statements by Mr Setka and Ms Walters outside court on Wednesday "reveal the high price paid ... fighting for the rights of others".

"Their statements highlight the need for support and respect when there is ... regret and bona fide attempts at reconciliation," they said.