

## ANNEX 1

### TERMS OF REFERENCE CONSULTANTS

**Project Title** : Ending VAW Assessment – Pacific Regional Scan

UNIFEM is undertaking a global assessment on actions to end violence against women. The Assessment has three main components:

- 1) A desk review of past and current UNIFEM projects and programmes, from 1997-2001
- 2) Scans of all the regions in which UNIFEM works in order to determine achievements, challenges, key actors, and future potential of programmes to end violence against women amongst UNIFEM's key partners: women's organizations, UN agencies and Governments
- 3) A participatory, in-depth assessment in 3 countries

#### **Regional Scan**

UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office in Fiji will be hiring Avega Bishop and Sue Finucane (Consultants) to undertake the regional scan. This scan will contribute to the global assessment, with a view toward generating information to strengthen its programmes and priorities over the next 3 years.

The Consultants will work under the direct supervision of the Regional Programme Director of UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office. The scan will focus on what the movement to end violence against women has achieved since the Beijing conference, and identify gaps in action and analysis. The analysis in the Pacific Region will have a regional overview and country specifics.

While women experience multiple forms of violence in their lives. The scan will focus on three categories of violence: domestic violence, rape and sexual assault on the girl-child.

The Consultants will be responsible for:

- Analysing the external environment for ending violence against women in the Pacific, including mapping the demands and priorities of the women's movement in the region through meetings with main partners (NGOs, government and other relevant partners) and review of literature
- Analysing the relevance and impact of advocacy strategies in the regional given the external environment, particularly the impact of the projects funded under the UNIFEM Trust Fund. This will include the effectiveness of advocacy strategies to bring about change in policy and accountability of government
- Providing feedback to UNIFEM on priorities for the future eg given what has been achieved, what the gaps are and who the major actors are, what and how should UNIFEM be supporting initiatives in the future?
- Undertake field visits to Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu to collect data and information on the topics specified in this TORs and attached matrix.

The Consultants will produce a report of no more than 15 pages and a series of annexes/lists, containing the information provided in the attached matrix.

### **Methodology**

The methodology will be the following:

- Review of literature and information
- Information/data collection through questionnaires, meetings and interview to key partners and organizations working on VAW
- Field visits to Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu

### **Consultancy Schedule**

The overall duration of the consultancy will be 30 working days. The Work Schedule follows:

Start Date :	15 April 2002
Field Visits :	Fiji - 18 April 2002
	Samoa - 23 April 2002
	Fiji - 30 April 2002
	Vanuatu - 2 May 2002
	Melbourne- 6/7 May 2002

*Field Visits are approximate days, subject to flight availability.*

Draft Report	Preparations	13-23 May 2002
Submission of Draft to UNIFEM		24 May 2002
Comments from UNIFEM to Consultants		28 May 2002
Finalisation of Report and submitted back to UNIFEM		31 May 2002

## ANNEX 2

### PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED

#### FIJI

Mr Alipate Qetaki	Permanent Secretary for Justice; Chairperson, Government Violence Against Women Taskforce
Ms Raijieli Vasakula	Senior Legal Officer, Fiji Law Reform Commission
Ms Vuki Qionibaran	Legal Officer, Fiji Law Reform Commission
Ms Shamima Ali	Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
Ms Edwina Kotoisuva	Deputy Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
Ms Karalaini Bradberg	Divisional Women's Interest Officer – Eastern, Ministry for Women
Ms Eseta Tuinabua	Divisional Women's Interest Officer – Central, Ministry for Women
Ms Penni Moore	Coordinator, Women's Action for Change
Mr Carlos Perera	Sexual Minorities Project Coordinator, Women's Action for Change
Adi Litia Cakobau	First Vice President, Soqosoqo Vakamarama
Adi Mei Kainona Gauna	General Secretary, Soqosoqo Vakamarama
Various representatives	Annual General Meeting, National Council of Women
Ms Weleilakeba	Programme Manager, Fiji YWCA
Ms Tarusila Bradburgh	Fiji YWCA
Cpl Salaseini Vakaturagani	Personal Crime Unit, Fiji Police Force
Mr Leonard Chan	Governance Fund Manager, Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team (RRRT) Project
Ms Asenaca Vakacegu	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF
Mr Laitia Tamata	Legal Rights Trainer, UNICEF
Ms Urmila Singh	Assistant Representative, UNFPA
Mr John Vakalamo	AusAID, Australian High Commission
Ms Linda Tepuni	New Zealand High Commission
Dr Jimmie Rodgers	Senior Deputy Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Ms Margaret Leniston	Gender Issues Adviser, Forum Secretariat
Mr Shaun Evans	Law Enforcement Liaison Officer, Political and International Affairs Division, Forum Secretariat
Mr Tony Werts	Counsellor, Law Enforcement Liaison, Australian Federal Police, Australian High Commission, Suva

#### SAMOA

Ms Luagalau Foisagaasina Eteuati Shon	Secretary of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs
Ms Mary Tofaeono (Autagavaia)	Faculty of Education, National University of Samoa; consultant involved in development of training package and video for ECPAT Samoa
Ms Maiava Visekota Peteru	Lawyer in private practice; one of the founders of MOA
Ms Jill Raspen	Counsellor, (Peace Corps Volunteer), Maposaga O Aiga
Ms Tevaui Letin Palupe	President, Maposaga o Aiga
Dr Peggy Fairburn-Dunlop	Consultant; Tetee Atu Program, National Council of Women
Ms Annie Eves	Retired Police Inspector; involved in MOA training

Ms Tapusalaia Faatonu Falestoese	President, Samoa Umbrella for Non Government Organisations (SUNGO)
Ms Karen Talen	Executive Officer, SUNGO
Dr Karene Solomona	Director, Family Planning, Ministry for Health
Ms Mary O'Regan	Adviser, Institutional Strengthening Program, Ministry of Justice (NZODA funded)
Ms Frances Soon Schuster	Student Counsellor, University of South Pacific Alafua; author of Samoa Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices for Pacific Children's Program
Ms Muliagatele Georgina Bonin	Assistant Resident Representative (Programmes), United Nations Development Programme
Ms Tima Leavai	Formerly working on SPC Family Health and Safety Research Project
Ms Tuli Pepuleai	Assistant Secretary (Courts Division), Ministry of Justice
Mr Masinalupe Tusipa	Secretary, Ministry of Justice
Ms Arasi Tiotio	Assistant Secretary, Justice Department
Ms Brenda Heather	Attorney-General, Office of the Attorney-General
Ms Noumea Simi	Assistant Secretary Economic/Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms Sharon Potoi-Aiafi	Principal Foreign Affairs Officer, Economic and Aid Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Ed Peak	AusAID, Australian High Commission (via telephone) Samoa Association of Women Graduates (social function)
<b>VANUATU</b>	
Ms Hilda Taleo	Director, Department of Women's Affairs
Ms Jane Strachan	Adviser, Department of Women's Affairs
Ms Danie Masoe	AusAID, Australian High Commission
Ms Rothina Ilio	A/g Equity Officer, Department of Strategic Management
Ms Jenny Ligo	CEO, Vanuatu National Council of Women
Ms Elda Ward	CUSO volunteer, Vanuatu National Council of Women
Ms Marilyn Tah	Coordinator, Vanuatu Women's Centre
Ms Heather Leo	Public Prosecutor, Public Prosecutor's Office
Ms Maturine Tary	Director, Planning and Administration, Department of Health
Mr Jonas Arugogona	Gender Focal Point, Ministry of Health
Mr Nick Duggin	British High Commission
Ms Janet Oris	Matron, Hospital
Ms Elian Paniel	Nurse, Outpatient Department, Hospital
Ms Elizabeth Wilson	Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission
Mr Jean Sese	Director General, Ministry of the Prime Minister
Mr Pioni Willie	Senior Statistician, National Statistics Office
Ms Evelyn Bulegih	Young People's Project
Sgt. Maryline George	Sexual Abuse Section, Police
Senior Sgt. Toara Thomas	Uniform Investigation Branch, Police
Mme Blandine Boulekone	Executive Director, Vanuatu Family Health Association
Ms Jean Baker	Consultant undertaking Review of Court Processes (NZODA funded)
Dr Desma Hughes	University of the South Pacific, Vila; author of Vanuatu Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices for Pacific Children's Program (2002)
Ms Jilda Shem	Program Manager – Vanuatu, Pacific Children's Project
Mr Michael Taurakoto	Wan Smolbag (via telephone and email)

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Karula Koren

Ms Sarah Sepoe

Catholic Women's Federation

Ms Helen Hakena

Ms Elizabeth Cox

**COOK ISLANDS**

Ms Caroline Glassie

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Ms Maureen Vavozo

**AUSTRALIA**

Ms Bernadette McMenamin

Pihi Manus Association, Loreugau, Manus Province,  
(PWNAVAW Regional Training Program participant)

Deboin People's Foundation, Port Moresby, (PWNAVAW  
Regional Training Program participant)

Wewak (PWNAVAW Regional Training Program participant)

Executive Director, Leitana Nehan Women's Development  
Agency, Bougainville (via fax, email)

HELP Resources (via email)

Punanga Tauturu Women's Counselling Centre (PWNAVAW  
Regional Training Program participant)

Coordinator, Family Support Centre, Honiara (PWNAVAW  
Regional Training participant)

National Director, Childwise (ECPAT Australia)

The Consultant will help us to clarify, by....→	Undertaking Research →	Indicating <u>Lessons Learned</u> →	Undertaking <u>Analysis</u> →	To produce the following <u>outputs</u>
<p><u>Question:</u> Where is UNIFEM's work situated in the larger context of efforts to end VAW in the region?</p>	<p><u>Organisational Mapping:</u> - Produce a map of what government, UN agencies, the women's movement and any other players in the region are prioritizing in their programmes, activities, strategies and investments. - What key materials are these actors producing.</p>	<p><u>Lessons Learned through organization mapping:</u> - What are the exciting and new ways of addressing VAW and to what extent are these (or are they not) being scaled up? - What 'good practice' examples exist with regard to changing attitudes, knowledge, and behaviour.</p>	<p><u>Analysis of the organizational mapping:</u> - What are the areas which are receiving a lot of support and attention? - Where are the gaps? - Who are UNIFEM's key partners and who should be UNIFEM's key partners? - Given this, what should UNIFEM's focus be?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> List/table on who is doing what to end VAW in the region. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations to UNIFEM on future partners and priorities (no more than 3 pages).</p>
<p><u>Question:</u> What have the main legal, political and human rights achievements been?</p>	<p><u>Standards mapping (Legal, Political and Human Rights Standards):</u> - List major legal and policy changes at the national and regional re: ending VAW since Beijing. - List major agreements/ Conventions signed (eg.</p>	<p><u>Lessons Learned re: Effectiveness of Standards:</u> - Have there been successful uses of international and regional instruments and what opportunities exist to go further? - What strategies</p>	<p><u>Analysis of standards mapping:</u> - According to key actors on ending VAW, have these standards made a difference? - How are these being use? - What are the weaknesses in</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Listing of laws, policies, regional agreements and international conventions agreed to end VAW – and the dates on which these were passed – on a country-by-</p>

	<p>Belem do Para, CEDAW, OAU, Draft Additional Protocol)</p> <p>- What further steps are partners identifying in order to make legal/policy changes effective?</p>	<p>have been most effective in attaining the desired legal and policy changes? (eg. awareness raising, training of parliamentarians, NGO lobbying etc.</p>	<p>implementation?</p> <p>- What should priorities for UNIFEM support be on securing and implementing legal and policy changes?</p>	<p>country basis</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of legal framework created since Beijing (no more than 5 pages).</p>
<p><u>Question:</u></p> <p>What are the emerging and future issues related to ending VAW?</p>	<p><u>Issues mapping:</u></p> <p>- List key issues on the basis of literature review and several in-depth interviews with key actors.</p>		<p><u>Issues Analysis:</u></p> <p>- How is work on VAW contextualised by increasing violence in society generally?</p> <p>- How have efforts to end VAW moved other issues forward (e.g HIV/AIDs, conflict, migration etc)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Issues map by country</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of emerging issues and how UNIFEM should address these</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> How should UNIFEM respond in future programmes?</p>

## ANNEX 3

### REGIONAL OVERVIEW & STATUS OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN THE PACIFIC REGION

There is considerable diversity among the 26 Island countries and territories of the Pacific, in terms of geography, population, cultures, economies and politics. The Pacific region contains 7,500 islands, of which about 500 are inhabited, spread over 30 million square kilometres, more than 98% of this being ocean.

The Pacific Islands contain a population of approximately 12.1 million people. National populations are as follows (1):

American Samoa	64,100
Cook Islands	18,700
Federated States of Micronesia	118,100
Fiji Islands	824,700
French Polynesia	233,000
Guam	148,200
Hawaii	1,211,540
Kiribati	90,700
Marshall Islands	70,800
Nauru	11,500
New Caledonia (Kanakya)	212,700
Niue	1,900
Northern Marianas Islands	76,700
Palau	19,100
Papua New Guinea	5,100,000
Pitcairn	47
Rapanui (Easter Island)	2,000
Samoa	169,200
Solomon Islands	447,900
Tokelau	1,500
Timor Lorosa'e	800,000
Tonga	100,200
Tuvalu	9,900
Vanuatu	199,800
Wallis & Futuna	14,600
Irian Jaya	2,100,000

The Pacific Island countries have young populations, with a very high proportion of the population being under 15 years of age. Across Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga 39% of the population are under 15 years of age. Pacific Island women have a longer life expectancy than Pacific Island men, with average life expectancy across these five countries is 72 years for women and 67 for men. Infant mortality is very high – extremely high in Vanuatu where 65 babies of every 1000 live births die - and an average across Samoa, Fiji, Solomons, Tonga and Vanuatu of 32 deaths per 1000 live births. Across these five countries women give birth to an average of nearly five children. (2) In Papua New Guinea, women give birth to an average of six children, infant mortality is rising and the maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world. (3)

#### The Status of Women and Girls

The status of women and girls in the Pacific, and the issues facing women and girls, vary from country to country. Most Pacific countries are not included in the UNHCR reports, and no current



HDI, GDI or GEM statistics are available for the majority of Pacific countries (see below). That said, key indicators, and country specific information, point to an inequality between women and men throughout the region. In core indicators including literacy, education, representation in decision making, poverty and cultural practises, women and girls are disadvantaged. Across Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and Tonga 90 girls to 100 boys attend primary school, and 68% of females are literate compared to 74% of men.

The dominance of men and the low status of women and children is characteristic of the gender and age power relations throughout the Pacific. These relations of power and privilege have been entrenched by hierarchical chiefly structures and by more than a century of colonisations and Western European Christian family models. Imported and imposed gender roles and relations have been actively encouraged, institutionalised, internalised and reproduced in the Pacific region for up to four generations, blurring aspects of gender in traditional society forever. (4)

Dual and sometimes conflicting legal systems have severe implications for the women of the Pacific. Many Pacific Islands have two systems of law - national law and customary laws.

Customary law is based on two basic principles – that the good of the community should take priority over the rights of individuals, and that decisions should be made through negotiation and consensus. Customary courts are presided over by village elders and chiefs, usually men, and can view women's role as that of bearing children and serving men, making a decision favouring their individual rights unlikely. (5)

Cultural Practices such as polygamy in PNG have changed from a traditional custom practiced in very few areas, to a right more and more men have assumed. Bride Price is a cultural practice found in PNG, Solomons and Vanuatu; once meant to symbolise family ties, it is often viewed as symbolising a man's ownership over his wife, with severe consequences for domestic violence and women's human rights. The custom of gift giving as atonement for conflict is often used when there has been rape, however the woman or girl herself is not consulted, the decision to accept compensation is made by her family. (6)

As a key social institution, the Church is very powerful in guiding community attitudes and ultimately community practices, and has often reinforced women's submissive position in society and especially within marriage.

Subsistence farming is still a major source of Pacific livelihoods and women are largely responsible for subsistence food production. As is the case elsewhere in the world, throughout the Pacific, women work more hours than men. Papua New Guinean women work an average of eight hours a day more than men do. In Cook Islands and Tuvalu, women work an average of five hours a day more. Pacific women generally get up between 5.00am and 6.00am and go to sleep between 10.00pm and 11.00pm. Pacific men rise an hour or two later and go to bed two hours earlier. The burden of multiple responsibilities has severe consequences for the health, as well as for the economic power of women. (7)

Gender relations in contemporary Pacific cultures are characterised by inequality of power, opportunity and access to resources. These relations are closely linked to cycles of violence that maintain low status and high levels of victimisation for girls and women. (8)

#### **Indicators of Women's Status**

**The Human Development Index** (HDI) measures the achievement of countries in basic human capabilities using indicators of life expectancy, educational attainments and adjusted real income. Note: number 1 is the top ranking, the lower the number the better the ranking of a country. According to the 2000 HDI rankings, Fiji was 66, Samoa 95, Solomon Islands 121, Vanuatu 118 and PNG 133 of 146 countries.

**The Gender-Related Development Index (GDI)** measures the achievement of a country in terms of the same basic capabilities as the HDI, plus inequality in achievement between women and men. The 2001 United Nations Human Development Report gave GDIs for only 2 Pacific Island countries: Fiji and PNG. The GDIs of both countries worsened between 1995 and 2000:

- PNG's GDI deteriorated from 86 in 1995 to 110 in 2000.
- Fiji's GDI declined from 46 in 1995 to 59 in 2000. (9)

**The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)** evaluates the progress in advancing women at the political and economic levels. It examines whether men and women are able to actively participate in economic and political life.

Country	Women in Government		HDI Rank		GDI Rank		GEM Rank	
	Minister	All Levels	1995	2000	1995	2000	1995	2000
Fiji	9.5	14.5	61	66	46	59	75	61
PNG	0.0	4.5	126	133	86	110	100	
Samoa	7.1	10.5	102	95			77	
Solomon			125	121				
Tonga							109	
Vanuatu			119	118				
Australia	14.3	16.5	11	4	6	3	11	11

Source: IWTC Women's Score Book, UNDP Human Development Report 1995 & 2000

#### **Other indicators of women's status and wellbeing are:**

**Literacy:** females are on average less literate than males. In Papua New Guinea female literacy as is 78% of male literacy.

#### **Poverty**

- One in every four households in Fiji lives below the poverty line, with poor households having a higher proportion of women as their heads (10).
- The majority of workers in low –wage unprotected industries are women, with globalisation of industries contributing to the further subordination of Pacific women. (11)

#### **Health**

- 1/3 of women in Fiji are anaemic, mostly due to not eating properly (12).
- Maternal mortality across five Pacific countries -Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga - is 210 per 100,000 confinements. In the Solomon Islands alone maternal mortality is 600-700 per 100,000 confinements. 1 in every 150 confinements results in the death of the mother. (13)

#### **Political Representation**

Women are underrepresented in all levels of government throughout the Pacific, and if the unusually high level of female representation in parliament in French Polynesia is put aside, women make up on average 4% of Pacific members of parliament.

- Women in Samoa gained the right to vote in 1990, the first woman was appointed to Parliament in 1976
- Women in Fiji gained the right to vote & stand for election in 1963, the first woman was not appointed to parliament until 1970
- Women in PNG gained the right to vote in 1963 and the first woman was elected to Parliament in 1977 (14)
- As indicated by the table below, women comprise 52 out of 656 members of parliament in the Pacific Islands (15):

<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of seats in legislature</b>	<b>No. of women in legislature</b>
Cook Islands	25	2
FSM	14	0
Fiji	71	4
French Polynesia	49	24
Guam	15	3
Kirabiti	42	2
Marshall Islands	33	1
Nauru	18	0
New Caledonia	54	9
Niue	20	2
Palau	16	0
PNG	109	2
Samoa	47	3
Solomon Islands	49	0
Tonga	30	0
Tuvalu	12	0
Vanuatu	52	0*

\*note one woman elected in May 2002.

**Sources of Information/Footnotes:**

- (1) Population of Pacific Countries excluding New Zealand, Australia and Norfolk Island, from Radio Australia Time to Talk, based on SPC 2000 Demography Program
- (2) Secretariat of the Pacific Community, The Pacific Region from website <http://www.spc.int/region.htm>
- (3) AusAID ,1998, Women's Economic Participation in Five Pacific Island Countries, International Development Issues No. 50
- (4) E. Cox, 2002, Issues Raised in PNG's Initial Report to the United Nations on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- (5) P. I. Jalal, 1998, Law for Pacific Women
- (6) Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women, 2001, Third Regional Meeting Proceedings.
- (7) Jalal 1998
- (8) E. Cox, 2000, Gender, the links between violence against women and children: the problems and the potential for change.
- (9) United Nations Human Development Report 2001, from UNHDR website [http://www.undp.org/hdr2001/indicator/cty\\_f\\_WSM.html](http://www.undp.org/hdr2001/indicator/cty_f_WSM.html)
- (10) Fiji Poverty Report, 1996, [http://www.undp.org.fj/poverty/poverty\\_study.htm](http://www.undp.org.fj/poverty/poverty_study.htm)
- (11) Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women 2001
- (12) Fiji Poverty Report, 1996
- (13) AusAID 1998, Women's Economic Participation in Five Pacific Island Countries, International Development Issues No. 50
- (14) UNHDR 2001
- (15) Radio Australia, Time to Talk issue four

## ANNEX 4

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS: DEFINITIONS AND IMPACTS

#### **1. Definition of Violence Against Women and Girls**

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 provides an internationally accepted definitions of VAWG.

It notes the relationship between the Declaration and CEDAW:

*"Recognizing that effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women would contribute to the elimination of violence against women and that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, set forth in the present resolution, will strengthen and complement that process."*

Article 1 of the Declaration defines "violence against women" as:

*" any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."*

Article 2 states that:

*"Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:*

- (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;*
- (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;*
- (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs."*<sup>1</sup>

#### **2. Violence Against Children**

##### **2.1. Overview**

There are a number of factors that influence the impact of violence and abuse on children:

- the nature of the abuse, relationship to the perpetrator, frequency, history and intensity of abuse, the gender and the age of the child.
- the child's own inner resilience
- the external community and family supports.

Children witnessing domestic violence experience a range of negative impacts. It has been documented that a substantial proportion of girls are victims of domestic violence and also witness physical and sexual violence used against their mothers.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly Resolution 48/104, 48 UN GAOR Supp. (N.. 49) at 217, UN Doc. A/48/49.

## 2.2. Physical Abuse and its Impact on Children

Physical abuse of children involves any non-accidental injury to a child by a parent or care giver. The injury may take the form of bruises, cuts, burns, fractures and other injuries.

The impact of physical abuse on children may include:

- impaired capacity to enjoy life
- tantrums
- low self esteem
- oppositional behaviour (“no I’m not going to do that!”)
- hypervigilance
- temporary and/or permanent injuries
- depression
- anger/hostility
- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- compulsive behaviours (abnormally repetitive behaviour).
- psychiatric symptoms
- hyperactivity
- withdrawal
- pseudo-mature behaviour
- fear and anxiety
- difficulties in school
- running away/delinquency

## 2.3. Sexual Abuse and its Impact on Children

Sexual abuse occurs when an adult or someone bigger and/or older than the child uses power or authority over the child to involve the child in sexual activity. Physical force is sometimes involved. Sexual abuse involves a range of sexual activity. It may include fondling of the child’s genitals, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, finger or any other object, or exposure of the child to pornography.<sup>3</sup>

Child sexual abuse is an international problem that affects children of all ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds. Estimates based on the most sophisticated and rigorously conducted studies suggest that at least one out of four girls and one out of four boys in the general population experience child sexual abuse by the time they are 18 years of age.<sup>4</sup>

The impact of sexual abuse on children includes all of the impacts listed above for physical abuse, together with:

- inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- suicidal behaviour
- physical health problems e.g infertility, HIV/AIDS
- predatory sexual behaviour
- guilt and self blame

Because children cannot understand or explain the impact of the abuse, symptoms or behaviours often indicate underlying problems which can include:

- psychosomatic problems
- learned helplessness
- sexual problems
- self harm
- aggressive behaviour/antisocial behaviours
- relationship problems.

## 2.4. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Prostitution

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a fundamental violation of children’s rights. It compromises sexual abuse by an adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a

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<sup>2</sup> See FWCC’s – The Incidence and Prevalence and Nature of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Fiji, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Children’s Protection Society and ECPAT Australia, (1999), Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Samoa, AusAID In-Country Training Project.

<sup>4</sup> E. Deblinger and A. Heflin, (1996), Treating Sexually Abused Children and their non Offending Parents: A Cognitive Behavioural Approach, Interpersonal Violence: The Practice Series. USA: Sage Publications.

third person or persons. CSEC involves treatment of a child as a sex object and a commercial object. The CSEC constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.

Child Prostitution means the provision of any sexual service by a person under the age of 18 years for financial or other reward, favour or compensation, whether paid to the child or some other person.

### **2.5. Child Pornography**

ECPAT Australia defines child pornography as sexually explicit reproductions of a child's image including sexually explicit photographs, negatives, slides, magazines, movies, videotapes and computer disks. It is the use, production and distribution of visual, digital and audio materials that use children in a sexual context. Child pornography is becoming increasingly linked to the Internet, which provides new means to produce and distribute images secretly and globally.<sup>5</sup>

### **2.6. Child Sex Tourism**

Child sex tourism is the commercial sexual exploitation of children by foreigners. It usually refers to persons who travel from their own country to another to engage in sexual acts with children.. It often involves a third party who procures a child from local communities. Child sex tourism usually occurs in less developed countries. Child sex tourism exists in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Pacific Islands.

### **2.7. Child Sex Tourism in the Pacific**

The extent of child sex tourism is not known. The following two cases give an indication of the seriousness of the abuse:

- Robert Marlow, 51, of Melbourne was the first person in the world to be charged with offenses against children in the Pacific under extra-territorial legislation. He was committed to stand trial for allegedly sexually abusing children in Fiji. The committal hearing was held over 7 days at the Melbourne Magistrates Court with testimony by four Fijian boys brought to Australia for the hearing, and further testimony via video link up with child and police witnesses in Fiji.

- Mark Mutch, 41, formerly of Brisbane was charged with 34 counts of child sexual offenses in Suva in August 1997 after Fiji police were notified by Australian police that a computer linked to Mutch contained child pornographic images of underage Fijian girls.<sup>6</sup>

Fiji and Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1998 to combat child sexual abuse, and to make it easier to crack down on Australian child abusers exploiting children in the Pacific Islands.

### **2.8. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Pacific**

The extent of commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Pacific is not known. Sexual exploitation and abuse of children has been found in several Pacific countries, including PNG, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu.

A study on commercial sex workers (CSW) in urban centres of Fiji (Nii-K Plange, 1996) estimated that the numbers of sex workers had increased from 1,500 in 1990 to 2,000 in 1996; around 12% of sex workers were under 18 years of age. It was estimated that 66% of CSWs entered the business while children (ie before 18 years of age).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> and (6) ECPAT Australia/Childwise website: [www.childwise.org](http://www.childwise.org).

<sup>6</sup> FWCC's website.

<sup>7</sup> Nancy Terreri, UNICEF, in ECPAT Australia, 1998, Preventing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Pacific Children Conference Proceedings, June 1998.

The Solomon Islands Family Support Centre held the first Solomon Island child protection conference in January 1999, at which Sr Lillian, a community worker in Honiara noted that she and the sisters were aware of:

- over 100 girls under the age of 15 involved in prostitution in Honiara, the youngest aged 11 years.
- 30 boys under the age of 15 involved in prostitution in Honiara, with the youngest aged just 7 years.
- a case of a boy being brought to Australia for sexual purposes.

The following recommendations for action were made by the Conference:

- review of existing legislation concerning child abuse, and to amend or enact new legislation to provide full protection for children against abuse and neglect.
- the establishment of a child protection unit within the Police Department.
- extensive child abuse training for all relevant organisations.
- adoption of the Stockholm Agenda for Action as a framework to prevent commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) of Solomon Island Children.<sup>8</sup>

### **3. Violence Against Women**

#### **3.1. Domestic Violence and its Impact on Women**

Domestic violence is the term commonly applied to various forms of violent and abusive behaviour which occur in a marriage or defacto relationship. It is physical, verbal and psychological abuse which happens most often in the home.

The term “domestic violence” is used narrowly to cover incidents of physical attack, specifically physical and sexual violations, such as punching, choking, stabbing, throwing boiling water or acid, setting on fire. Physical injuries sustained by victims of domestic violence can range from bruising to death. What may start out as apparently minor attacks can escalate both in intensity and frequency.

Many agencies and people use the term “domestic violence” to include psychological or mental violence, which can consist of repeated verbal abuse; harassment; confinement; and deprivation of physical, financial and personal resources. Contact with family members and friends may be controlled.<sup>9</sup>

The impact of domestic violence on women is wide-ranging:

- physical injuries include cuts, bruises, black eyes, burns, broken bones, internal injuries and brain damage (any blow to the head can cause minor brain damage leading to loss of memory, difficulties in concentrating, mood changes or loss of sight or hearing). In the worst cases, death may result, or the victim may commit suicide.
- psychological effects include fear, confusion, loss of confidence, feelings of helplessness, inability to make decisions, poor work performance, and social isolation.
- other social and economic impacts may include loss of employment or income, homelessness, increased poverty, and social stigmatisation by family and community members.

Note: the term domestic violence is also used in the Pacific region in a broader sense as "family violence", encompass all violence in the family including violence between members of the household other than husband and wife.

#### **3.2. Rape and its Impact on Women**

Rape is forced sex against a woman's will and is an act of violence.

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<sup>8</sup> ECPAT Australia Newsletter No. 51, based on Fiji Times article 22/4/99.

<sup>9</sup> M. Davies (Ed.), (1997), Women and Violence, Realities and Responses Worldwide, N.Y.: Zed Books.

Legal definitions of rape in the Pacific region are often inadequate and too narrow, perpetuating myths that rape is an act of frustrated sexuality rather than a criminal act of violence and aggression. The laws in many countries do not recognise rape within marriage and forms of rape other than sexual intercourse. Court proceedings often are insensitive and add to the distress experienced by victims who choose to lodge a case.

Rape has a range of negative physical and psychological effects on women including:

- physical effects range from physical injury, transmission of STDs including HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, miscarriage, and all the physical impacts of domestic/family violence.
- psychological effects including: posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), powerlessness and loss of control, shock, denial, disturbed sleep, flashbacks, guilt, loss of confidence, mood changes, embarrassment and shame, depression, low self esteem, fear, anxiety, hostility, anger, loss of sexual confidence, entrapment and isolation, which may lead to suicide.

### **3.3. Sexual Assault**

Sexual assault, including incest, can be taken to include any sexualised behaviour by the offender which makes the victim feel uncomfortable or afraid. This unwanted behaviour can take various forms: touching, fondling or kissing; being made to look at, or pose for pornographic photos; being masturbated or being forced to masturbate the perpetrator; voyeurism; exhibitionism; verbal harassment/innuendo; oral/genital contact; penetration of the victim's vagina, mouth and/or anus with a penis or object.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Casa House, (1990), A Guide to Supporting Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault, Melbourne.



## ANNEX 5

### ORGANISATIONAL MAPPING - PACIFIC ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

#### PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls	Materials Produced or Planned
* Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women	<p>Est: 1992.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 members from 10 Pacific Island countries</li> <li>Regional conferences held every four years (1992, 1996, 2001)</li> <li>In-country meetings of members (PNG 2001)</li> <li>Training and practical attachments.</li> <li>Fiji Women's Crisis Centre acts as the secretariat (see FWCC under Fiji for details of current training programs and capacity building activities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly Newsletter</li> <li>Regional Meeting Reports</li> <li>Country Meeting Reports</li> </ul>
Secretariat of the Pacific Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPC has been the coordinator of a Pacific contribution to a WHO Multisite study on domestic violence. Originally planned for one country from each of the subregions, the research was undertaken in Samoa, with the Ministry for Women. Research was conducted in 1998/99; clearance from the Government of Samoa is still awaited (May 2002) for printing/launching the report. This was coordinated from Suva.</li> <li>Pacific Women's Resource Bureau in Noumea was established in 1982 to organise and coordinate women's development efforts. It played a coordination role prior to Beijing and has since been given the primary role of being responsible for encouraging ratification and implementation of CEDAW in the Pacific Region (Nadi Accord of 1998 involving ESCAP, SPC, UNDP). Since then it has convened a subregional CEDAW report writing workshop (Auckland, 2001) and subregional workshop on CEDAW in the northern Pacific (2001).</li> </ul>	
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political and International Affairs Division provides policy advice and technical assistance to members on international relations, law enforcement cooperation, political, legal and security issues.</li> <li>Focus on legal matters, especially the Honiara Declaration, combating transnational organised crimes and legislative responses. Draft framework for compliance with Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001 to be developed (by June 2003).</li> <li>Three specialist law enforcement bodies which meet annually and which convene working groups for particular issues: South Pacific Chiefs of Police (SPCPC), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCA), Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed guide to interviewing young persons (victims and offenders) to police and customs in 2000;</li> <li>Guide to child sex offenders is being developed for distribution to police and customs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questionnaire sent to police sexual abuse units on access to services such as DNA testing. Looking at protocols/checklists for doctors preparing reports for police, and idea of forensic lab for the region.</li> <li>• Note: no input by women's crisis centres and other service providers to date in work undertaken by specialist groups on issues relating to VAW.</li> </ul>	
South Pacific Association of Theological Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ecumenical body serving 25 theological member schools (across the three sub-regions) promoting theological education that is globally focused and contextually applicable.</li> <li>• Its WEAVERS program aims to promote theological education for women amongst Pacific Churches.</li> </ul>	

## UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS, BILATERAL DONORS

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls	Materials Produced or Planned
UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP Apia responsibilities include Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau, Niue.</li> <li>• UN Theme Group on Gender and Development has budget of US\$3-4,000 per annum which has been used for small studies or activities related to International Women's Day.</li> <li>• Interested in obtaining resources for work supporting VAW (need for shelter/temporary refugee) and gender program with youth. Interest in cooperating with UNIFEM.</li> <li>• Human Rights Fund provides small grants (US\$5,000 each) - 6 groups just selected (including TV video to be produced by Mapusaga o Aiga).</li> </ul>	Status of Ratification and Implementation: CEDAW, CRC and FWCW in American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, prepared by SUNGO for the UN Theme Group on Gender and Development, 2000
Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team (RRRT)	<p>Est 1995 as a legal literacy and human rights advocacy, training and capacity building project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previously funded by DFID, now the Poverty Reduction Through Access to Justice for All (PRAJA) Project is funded and managed by UNDP Suva, with some funding from DFID.</li> <li>• In first phase, Legal Rights Training Officers (CLRTOs) were recruited and placed in national partner organisations in 7 countries and organised human rights workshops. Community paralegal training program (with both NGO and government representatives) have been undertaken</li> <li>• RRRT training of judiciary has achieved reasonable coverage of magistrates in Fiji but much less in other countries especially with untrained magistrates and no influence to date with village chiefs who are influential in context of customary law (Impact Assessment of RRRT)</li> <li>• PRAJA project focus on Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human rights education materials for various target groups</li> <li>• Booklet on CEDAW</li> <li>• Series of leaflets on family law and legal literacy issues, which have been translated into local languages in a number of countries.</li> <li>• Training manuals on CEDAW for CLROs being prepared.</li> <li>• Human Rights Manual nearly completed (intended for CLROs, but may be distributed more widely).</li> </ul>
UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of VAW as key issue and public health area.</li> <li>• Samoa Family Health and Safety Project, intended originally to be first of similar studies in the region, including 3 under current cycle. Project launched in 1998, but results not yet released. (Lessons learnt: better to have studies undertaken by NGO). Have questionnaire developed for application in other countries, but resource constraints.</li> <li>• Improving Adolescent Reproductive Health Project is a 3 year multisectoral approach focusing on adolescent and sexual health in 9 countries. (FSM, Kiribati,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters "Domestic violence; common hidden problem"</li> <li>• Peer education manuals</li> <li>• Protocols for health professionals</li> <li>• Posters, media etc (best developed in country, and field tested with people targeted - not doctors!)</li> <li>• Reproductive Health IEC materials to be</li> </ul>

	<p>Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Fiji). Activities are directed to NGOs, government, parents and schools, and aims to promote skill development, esteem building and empowerment of adolescent girls (funded by Turner Foundation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Marshall Islands small research study undertaken on exploitation of girls (11 and 12 years) due to Japanese fishing project, found high rates of STIs, looked at sexual networking issues.</li> <li>• In Fiji Men as Partners in Reproductive Health is being undertaken as a Domestic Violence Court Orders pilot project(NZ funded)</li> </ul>	<p>developed through SPC (which has done inventory of materials already developed)</p>
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suva Regional Office has regional responsibilities for 14 Pacific Island Countries (including Nauru).</li> <li>• Provides technical assistance to Pacific countries on child protection issues and funds training and other activities relating to protection services.</li> <li>• Regional meetings arranged on Juvenile Justice, HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Advocacy and Planning Project aims to strengthen the capacity of national coordinating bodies to advocate for increased awareness and action on the rights of children and CEDAW as expressed in CRC and CEDAW, and increase capacity for implementation, monitoring and reporting on the CRC. 12 CRC training workshops for 7 countries held in 2001.</li> <li>• Next program cycle likely to have focus on adolescence, including child advocacy and child protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books, pamphlets, videos, posters concerning child protection</li> <li>• Directory of Government Agencies and Local, Regional and International NonGovernment Agencies Working for the Rights and Protection of Children produced (November 2000).</li> </ul>
NZODA	<p>Providing funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Branch of Fiji Women's Crisis Centre</li> <li>• Vanuatu Women's Centre Safe House Project (3 years to 2002; agreed for a further 2 years)</li> <li>• VWC Samna Counselling Centre (3 years to 2002, agreed for a further 3 years);</li> <li>• Mapusaga o Aiga (Samoa);</li> <li>• National Council of Women, Samoa for the Tetee Atu Program</li> </ul>	
DFID	<p>Three programme areas have been good governance, human rights and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded RRRT for first five years (and contributing to PRAJA project with UNDP)</li> <li>• Bilateral aid in the Pacific will cease by March 2004</li> </ul>	
AusAID	<p>Providing funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FWCC including activities of Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women Phase 3 1998-2004;</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanuatu Women's Centre;</li> <li>• Pacific Children's Project (Samoa, Vanuatu and Fiji);</li> <li>• Five year Police Institutional Strengthening Program in Samoa</li> </ul>	
Pacific Children's Project	<p>Three year (AusAID funded) project with possibility of additional two years, being implemented in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the first year (inception phase) national committees have been established, program managers appointed in each country and national coordination points established.</li> <li>• Qualitative research has been undertaken in each country to assess the nature and extent of child protection and attitudes/perceptions towards it, through an exploration of the factors that contribute to children's wellbeing and practices that negate those factors.</li> <li>• Focus of activities is on child protection awareness raising and facilitation of coordination among organisations (government, Church and NGOs) involved in the issue.</li> <li>• Project includes small grants facility to community based organisations for workshops, training, etc (A\$60,000 in total for three countries).</li> </ul>	<p>To be developed (April 2002- June 2003):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training Packages to facilitate organisations to undertake community based child protection actions (containing core information common to the three countries plus some country specific information);</li> </ul> <p>IEC materials including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a program poster for the three countries,</li> <li>• nationally produced posters,</li> <li>• information leaflets/brochures, bookmarks, stickers, Tshirts, banners,</li> <li>• information booklet for parents/carers,</li> <li>• radio spot messages and dramas, interviews, rural theatre,</li> <li>• short child protection advocacy information video,</li> <li>• advocacy information kits.</li> </ul>

# FIJI

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls
Ministry for Women	<p>Plan of Action for Violence Against Women is one of five areas of focus in the Women's Plan of Action 1999-2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has the objective of educating the community and law enforcement agencies to prevent and eliminate violence against women and children.</li> <li>• Government, NGOs and CSOs are identified as agencies to take action in a range of areas including law reform, service provision, data collection and analysis, awareness campaigns and training for law enforcement, social services and other providers.</li> <li>• Ministry staff conducts some workshops in rural areas focusing on VAW, with involvement of other organisations.</li> </ul>
Task Force on VAW	<p>Government established task force in 1998, but was reinstated in 2001 following coup; Chaired by Permanent Secretary for Justice comprises 10 members including 2 NGOs (FWCC and Disability Association) Role and function is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify priority actions to be implemented and organisations responsible,</li> <li>• develop mechanisms for implementation,</li> <li>• monitoring and evaluation of priority actions;</li> <li>• provide support for implementation of Women's Plan of Action,</li> <li>• advise the InterMinisterial Committee on Women on additional critical areas impacting on implementation.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Justice	Responsibilities include prisons (some rehabilitation programs conducted by church groups and NGS) and judiciary.
Police	<p>A Sexual Offences Unit was established in the Central and Southern Divisions and the Western and Northern Divisions by the Police Department May 1995. The Unit handles cases of sexual assault. Some community education activities are carried out by staff.</p> <p>The police have protocols with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Department of Social Welfare on the handling of cases of child abuse.</p>

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls	Materials Produced or Planned
<p>* Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)</p>	<p>Est: 1984. Office in Suva, plus branches in Ba (1992), Labasa (1994) and Lautoka (1994)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides crisis counselling, legal, medical and other practical support services for women and children from four centres in Fiji, plus mobile counseling &amp; community education in rural areas, working in with rural police &amp; health workers.</li> <li>• Public advocacy &amp; community education concerning VAW and child abuse.</li> <li>• Training for government, NGOs and community groups.</li> <li>• Annual campaigns – 16 Days of Activism, International Women's Day focus on children in national and regional campaigns</li> <li>• Lobby for Law Reform</li> <li>• Active media work including commentary on women's issues and challenging/workshops on gender sensitivity for media.</li> <li>• Library/Resource Centre open to students in Suva</li> </ul> <p>Regional Capacity Building and Training: Regional network and support for Pacific organisations working on VAW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Training Program – 4 week attachments to the Centre for women working in the area of VAW (nearly 50 people from PNG have been trained in Fiji)</li> <li>• Short Training Courses (1-2 weeks) for professional women &amp; men – judiciary, social workers, church workers, health workers, police on all aspects of VAW and counselling skills</li> <li>• Secretariat and coordinator of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women</li> <li>• Managing agent for AusAID funded project with Vanuatu Women's Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender Training Manual, created in consultation with network members from 11 Pacific Island countries (to be released in 2002)</li> <li>• Counsellors Manual</li> <li>• Community Education Manual</li> <li>• Materials are adapted and used by many organisations around Pacific in work to end VAW</li> <li>• 'The Incidence, Prevalence and Nature of Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault in Fiji: A Research Project, 2001</li> <li>• 'The Impact of the May 19 Coup on Women in Fiji: a research report of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre', 2001</li> <li>• NGO Shadow Report to the CEDAW Committee (with FWRM, FWCC, ECREA), 2002.</li> <li>• IEC materials on protective behaviours for children: including calendars, book labels, rulers for schools, books, booklets, posters, banners</li> <li>• Quarterly newsletter</li> <li>• Series of brochures on legal rights</li> <li>• Website launched 2001</li> </ul>
<p>* Women's Action for Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce and perform playback and scripted theatre. Current focus on violence against women, racial violence and children's rights.</li> <li>• Worked in prisons for three years with men on self esteem and women's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual on resources for workshops for self esteem, human rights and violence against women in preparation (funding required).</li> </ul>

	<p>issues with great results; no longer working in prisons but include ex-prisoners in activities and training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual minorities project addressing discrimination and violence experienced by gay and lesbian people, with paralegal assistance, counselling, training to facilitate self esteem and skills training in business areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripted plays</li> </ul>
Fiji Women's Rights Movement	<p>Est: 1986 to work towards elimination of all forms of discrimination and promote women's equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First major campaign (86-94) was 6 year Anti Rape Campaign; 1993-95 focused on family law legal literacy and lobbying government for CEDAW ratification.</li> <li>• current focus on Women, Employment &amp; Economic Rights (WEER) and Young Women's Program.</li> <li>• Cooperates with RRRT with community paralegal training and national legal literacy project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGO Shadow Report to the CEDAW Committee (with FWCC, ECREA) 2002</li> <li>• Law for Pacific Women: A Legal Rights Handbook, P.Imrana Jalal, published by FWRM, 1998</li> <li>• Produced pamphlets (through RRRT) on divorce, custody, maintenance, marital &amp; property rights.</li> <li>• Pamphlets on sexual harassment</li> <li>• Balance – newsletter</li> </ul>
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Fiji	<p>Established 1962.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suva based programmes in vocational training, home industries and informal education for young people, plus advocacy on social justice issues.</li> <li>• First work on violence against women is through the Empowering Community Leaders and Members to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Promote Gender Project (funded through UNIFEM Trust Fund grant US\$20,854) being implemented February to December 2002</li> </ul>	
Sokosoqo Vakamarama; and National Council of Women	<p>Largest organisation of indigenous Fijian women with structure throughout 14 provinces.</p> <p>National organisation with affiliated women's organisations and branch structure.</p>	<p>Joint activity producing booklets in simple language in three languages (English, Hindi and Fijian) on CEDAW (expected to be produced in 2002, with funding from Department for Women, Fiji)</p>



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls
Family Violence Committee (FVAC)	Est: 2000? Made up of reps from government and non-government organisations formed under umbrella of Institute of National Affairs. – has extended its mandate to include sexual violence outside family. Goal to reduce the occurrence and suffering caused by family an sexual violence.
Police	RPNGC Community Policing Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family violence and awareness and training program for police &amp; their families.</li> <li>Piloting gender training package with police &amp; community</li> <li>Community policing strategy involving other partners NGO &amp; government in awareness &amp; training</li> <li>Strategy to involve community more in how police conduct their business – towards accountability &amp; transparency. Problems with community policing effectively meaning ‘trivial’ issues are relegated to community to deal with (this incl. domestic violence)</li> </ul>

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls	Materials Produced or Planned
* Baua Baua Popular Education Troupe, East Sepik Province	Est: 1995 Voluntary troupe drawn from local community – poor urban settlements of Wewak. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create theatre &amp; songs on gender violence, women and children's rights. Work to advocate for human rights, provision of basic services, protection of natural resources. Approach is step by step, isi, isi.</li> <li>Perform plays, hold discussions in villages, settlements and schools throughout East Sepik Province.</li> <li>Actively intervene in violence in their community, counselling, serving summons to husbands.</li> <li>Baua Baua are in demand locally and in other parts of country.</li> </ul>	2 volumes of cassettes & songbooks of awareness songs. Radio Drama
Catholic Family Services East New Britain	Crisis Counselling ENB	
* Eastern Highlands Family Voice (EHFV)	Est: 1998.Counselling & support services to victims of DV rape, incest, child abuse and neglect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White Ribbon Campaign;</li> <li>gender and family violence awareness work with teachers and churches, schools, awareness &amp; training of local volunteers</li> <li>Regular radio program</li> <li>Works with perpetrators.</li> </ul>	

* East New Britain Social Action Committee (ENBSEK) East New Britain Province	<p>Est: 1988. Focus is environmental awareness, landowner's rights, domestic violence and women's rights, alcohol and drug awareness, info on AIDS and STDs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a support network for victims of violence, individual and family counselling, and legal aid. Roster of volunteers at hospitals to assist victims of family violence.</li> <li>Community awareness raising at village level – on DV, rape, incest, child abuse - through workshops, talks, education materials &amp; training</li> <li>training and training of 'extension volunteers' who work at District and Community level, network with police, courts, welfare officers, hospitals. Rehabilitation programs. Radio work , theatre and drama.</li> </ul>	Documenting cases of family violence.
East Sepik Council of Women (ESCOW)	<p>Est 1975?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VAW one of their key areas of activism.</li> <li>In 1995 ESCOW decided to form ESCAWAW – the first organisation that directly addressed the issue of VAW in PNG in a direct way with a counselling centre</li> </ul>	
* East Sepik Committee Against Violence Against Women (ESCAVAW) East Sepik Province	<p>Est: 1995. Grassroots women's Organisation working to change East Sepik with regards to violence against women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crisis counselling &amp; support service, legal aid &amp; support services. Provide emergency shelter.</li> <li>Work to increase public awareness, network between groups dealing with VAW, advocacy.</li> <li>Successful campaign to exempt victims of hospital and medical report fees.</li> <li>Support district based Marprik Crisis Counselling Centre</li> <li>Radio Programs. Theatre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tok Pisin publications on Human Rights.</li> <li>Collection &amp; collation of baseline stats on VAW</li> </ul>
* Health, Education, Livelihood and Participation (HELP) Resources Inc. East Sepik Province	<p>Est: 1998 Resources and advocates for community based efforts in: health, education, sustainable livelihood, participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides advice, training &amp; materials on rural development &amp; social issues.</li> <li>Gender, reproductive health &amp; human rights training.</li> <li>Advocacy on women's participation in community based planning, management and reporting on village development initiatives.</li> <li>Sensitising community leader about the need to include women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Training Manual 'Committing to Gender Equality in PNG' (Tok Pisin and English)</li> <li>A range of other IEC materials, all in Tok Pisin &amp; English, illustrated, available on CD or in print on UDHR, CEDAW, CRC, Basic Rights and Freedoms of the PNG Constitution.</li> <li>Documents &amp; publishes historical experiences of women, including wartime sexual abuses of women</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management and capacity building for community organisations.</li> <li>• Best social development library in PNG.</li> </ul>	
* Individual Community Rights Advocacy Forum (ICRAF) Port Moresby	<p>Est: 1993; ICRAF Women's Refuge/Crisis Centre established in 1996. Provides legal advice and legal aid, counselling, conducts awareness raising workshops on VAW and education campaigns, monitors abuse of human rights &amp; environmental destruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refuge/Crisis Centre provides counselling, accommodation and support to in-house clients (including legal advice and assistance, access to community support services, skills training) , plus telephone counselling on domestic violence to wider community.</li> <li>• Refuge networks with police and hospital to assist victims of violence.</li> <li>• Refuge does DV awareness with schools, church groups, NGOs. Refuge has a weekly radio program.</li> <li>• Awareness workshops started in 4 regions and now moving into provinces covering the Constitutions, Family Law, Rape, Children's Rights, Child Abuse, Conflict Resolution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used materials created by LRC and WALC and created original materials such as 'Stap Esi'</li> <li>• Refuge runs Radio program in tok pisin</li> </ul>
* Kup Women for Peace Simbu Province	<p>Kup are working to address tribal violence and long term tribal fighting. Kup are working with women to initiate their own peace process, aimed to begin in 2001</p>	
* Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency (LNWDA) Bougainville	<p>Est: 1992 formally est 1995. Work broadly for peace and reconciliation – an end to violence and for human rights and women's human rights. Awarded UNIFEM Millennium Peace Prize 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of crisis counselling services and trauma counselling for women and children in Buka and mobile counselling to other areas.</li> <li>• Network of trained trainers and volunteers who conduct community workshops on VAW in communities and schools, plus follow up and facilitate community based activities.</li> </ul> <p>Awareness raising workshops to 150 communities in 10 districts of Bougainville.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics include Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Rape, Sexual Abuse, Sexual Harassment, Homebrew, Alcohol, Violence.</li> <li>• Activities targeting children and youth.</li> <li>• Actively engage young men and ex-combatants in participating and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters on domestic violence, rape and dangers of home brew alcohol</li> <li>• Adapted community education materials &amp; counsellor training manuals from FWCC</li> <li>• Booklets &amp; brochures on rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment</li> <li>• Radio programs.</li> </ul>

	<p>running awareness workshops.</p> <p>Public advocacy and gender training for police &amp; court officials</p> <p>Strong advocates for peace and women's participation in peace process and rebuilding Bougainville.</p>	
National Family Life Services Eastern Highlands Province	<p>Catholic Church Eastern Highlands Province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis counselling</li> <li>• First rape crisis training of diocesan workers</li> <li>• First program in PNG specific training in counselling for rape &amp; incest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manuals for strengthening family life</li> <li>• Manuals rape trauma counselling</li> </ul>
* Pihi-Manus Women & Children's Health Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programs and awareness on women and children's health and violence against women.</li> <li>• regular radio program</li> <li>• Conducts rehabilitation programmes for male offenders (youths 17-25 years).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting stats from health department on VAW</li> <li>• Radio program</li> </ul>
Salvation Army	Crisis Counselling ENB	
* Simbu Women's Counselling Centre	<p>Est: 1994 provide a support network for victims of violence, individual and family counselling, community awareness programs, law reform, strives for a non-violent society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Thursday – initiative against rape</li> <li>• Gender educations programs for schools</li> <li>• Working for peace between tribal factions engaged in long-term fighting</li> <li>• Lobbying &amp; advocacy for implementation of CEDAW (est CEDAW Action Network with other NGOs)</li> </ul>	
YWCA Port Moresby	<p>Active in Port Moresby for many years – focus on community awareness &amp; family life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness programs dealing with violence.</li> <li>• In 2000 carried out major awareness campaign “Advocacy 2000” of family violence and child sexual abuse in port Moresby (incl radio, Baua Baua theatre, public forums, youth council forum, schools discussions)</li> <li>• Counselling</li> </ul>	Radio program ‘Tok Stret’ on women's human rights and reproductive rights & health

## VANUATU

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls
Department for Women	<p>Mission: to advance the status of Vanuatu's women and to enhance their lives through focused policy formulation, targeted action plans and working in strategic partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of nine objectives is the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children.</li> <li>• Four main policy areas have been identified for work in the period 2001-03, including violence against women.</li> <li>• Discussion paper on VAW in preparation, following consultations with women's organisations (VWC, NCW) on issue. This is intended to become basis for government policy to be approved through cabinet.</li> <li>• Budget for 2001-2003 for violence against women is VT3,999,116 (most of which is for salaries and core organisational costs).</li> <li>• Planning for preparation of (initial overdue) report to CEDAW Committee. Funding from UNIFEM, NZODA and AusAID to be sought to assist with technical expertise from Fiji and national consultations.</li> </ul>
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual Offences Unit based at old police station in Pt Vila staffed by two policewomen. One was trained in Australian Federal Police Sex Offences Training in 1991 and has received VWC counselling training.</li> <li>• The Uniform Investigation Branch is responsible for cases of domestic violence and physical assault, plus family maintenance.</li> <li>• Both units keep statistics, which indicate that particularly for the UIB investigations are not completed.</li> <li>• The Sexual Offences Unit staff accompany VWC on community based training, and where able also undertake talks to schools etc.</li> </ul>
Office of the Public Prosecutor	<p>Office works with police and courts on criminal justice cases. Investigation by police of DV and sexual offenses often takes a long time before being forwarded to Public Prosecutor. Policy that cases will not be dropped at the request of relatives of victim, all cases with sufficient evidence go to court.</p> <p>Magistrates may not have had training for position or legal background; sentences passed by magistrates are often lenient although judges give higher sentences (2 magistrates in Santo, 6 in Vila, 1 in Tanna; 2 judges in Vila 1 in Santo, plus Chief Justice).</p>
Ministry for Health	<p>Since 2001 Ministry has started to focus on involving men in reproductive health training in communities, with work contracted to NGOs. Statistics on domestic violence compiled for 2001, based on statistics collected from health facilities throughout the provinces. Note: the statistics were 1. Limited by self-identification/classification by health staff and thus very low (16 cases of males; 33 cases of females) 2. aggregated into " domestic violence against males" and "domestic violence against females" and thus is not useful for any analysis (age of males, sex of perpetrators etc).</p> <p>The casualty section of the Pt. Vila Hospital had started a book to record details of violence against women and girls and in just three days had 5 cases logged of domestic violence and sexual assault (3 rape cases, including a 13 year old girl, and a 19 year old woman raped by 2 men).</p>
Statistics	Statistics on violence against women available but not up to date. Social Profile of Vanuatu is expected to be produced in 2002.

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls
* Vanuatu Women's Centre	<p>Est: 1992 in Pt Vila; Sanma Counselling Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides individual and family counselling from offices in Pt Vila and Santo, plus mobile counselling in other areas.</li> <li>• Provides para legal advice (DV, sexual assault, family maintenance, divorce etc) and assistance with Domestic Violence Court Orders, court fees, representation and legal costs; in 2002 plans to have lawyer on staff to handle legal cases. Also assist women at custom courts.</li> <li>• Community awareness programs including use of theatre, and development of community based committees in Outer Islands. Training and support for development of capacity of local volunteers to be a priority in next phase of work commencing July 2002, plus work with community volunteers of VFHA.</li> <li>• Conducts workshops and training for churches, chiefs and other organisations.</li> <li>• Awareness raising on Constitution, Legal and Human Rights, CRC and CEDAW.</li> <li>• Advocacy and lobbying on law reform and changes to procedures</li> <li>• Campaigns on VAW and children: IWD, 16 Days of Activism, National Days and occasions.</li> <li>• Media campaigns and radio programmes.</li> </ul>
Vanuatu National Council of Women	<p>Est: 1980. National organisation with secretariat in Pt Vila with national council, (volunteer) island presidents and area councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on economic opportunities for women (handicrafts) and women standing for parliament in recent election.</li> <li>• Organise events eg Vanuatu Women's Day</li> </ul>
Vanuatu Family Health Association	<p>Est 1990</p> <p>Pt Vila Clinic provides family planning services;</p> <p>Health education activities with approx 80 village based volunteers (80% male) in the Islands who conduct workshops in their communities. Some volunteers have already been trained by VWC: Volunteers will work with VWC on community education activities commencing in 2002.</p>
Young People's Project	<p>Est 1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted several research on views and experience of young people, in Port Vila (1998), in Islands (2001)</li> <li>• Forums to disseminate research findings to organisations working with youth</li> <li>• Conduct workshops on legal literacy targeting young people aged 13-25 (many out of school/never attended school)</li> <li>• (funding provided by AusAID and SCFA)</li> </ul>
Wan Smolbag Theatre	<p>Est 1989 to work with communities using theatre to promote discussion on social and environmental issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plays are taken to towns and villages of Vanuatu - on wife beating, teenage pregnancy, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS performed in communities with discussion on issues raised.</li> <li>• Government, Projects and NGOs commission Wan Smolbag Theatre to write and perform on particular issues.</li> <li>• Wan Smolbag Kids started in 1995, a theatre group for children 12-18years, started with a play on child rights &amp; education and have since created plays on dental hygiene, dengue fever and how girl's bodies work for primary school children. .</li> </ul>

Kam Pusum Hed (Wan Smolbag)	Reproductive health drop in information centre and clinic for young people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling &amp; services – literacy classes, self defence, family planning.</li> <li>• Outreach activities including peer education.</li> </ul>
Vanuatu Association of Women's Graduates (VAWG)	Awareness Raising on Court Rules Relating to Domestic Violence Project (funded in May 2002 by Australia through the Regional Human Rights Small Grants Scheme - Vt3.8 million)

### SAMOA

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls
Ministry for Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry is focal point for CRC (signed in 1994); five year process involved steering committee with government departments and public awareness raising.</li> <li>• Ministry also responsible for CEDAW reporting; initial and progress report is being prepared (UNIFEM supported). This is an update of draft report prepared in 1997 (NZ funding) which was not progressed. CEDAW Partnership Committee comprises government and NGOs.</li> <li>• Ministry's view is that the issue of violence against women should be addressed separately to discipline (not abuse) of children.</li> <li>• SPC Family Health and Safety Study survey identified need to involve men in addressing the issue of VAW. Importance of developing language and approach that is sensitive to local context (Government yet to give OK to SPC to print report).</li> <li>• Ministry is also focal point for Pacific Children's Project.</li> <li>• Since 1999 been working on a Plan for Women 2000-04; role of Ministry including its mandate is being reviewed by Government; likely to be an increased role in policy development.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted Crime Prevention Awareness Program 2000-01 2-3 hour sessions in all secondary schools in Samoa, plus some church youth groups. Explained about the justice system and various offences including sexual offenses.</li> <li>• In 2000 started a public awareness campaign mainly directed to women. Interest in developing counselling program and home visits for parolees, including those who are sexual offenders.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Health	Outreach programmes to villages promote men's responsibility in reproductive health. "Roadshow" includes play where man abuses his pregnant wife. Use of theatre and humor is an effective means to raise sensitive issues.
Attorney-General	<p>Program of legislative reform planned. Attorney General would welcome approach from NGOs to request review of laws concerning violence against women. This would be a catalyst to give these issues a push in the priority ranking for attention.</p> <p>While there has been an increase in cases of sexual assault and child sexual abuse coming to court, these cases have a lower conviction rate than other cases. Issues are problems with evidence available, and reliance on victim's testimony in intimidating court room situation, a lot of shame and difficulty in speaking openly about sexual matters, and pressure exerted on girls and women by families to withdraw cases.</p>

Organisation	Description of activities related to violence against women and girls	Materials Produced
* Mapusaga o Aiga (Family Haven)	<p>Est: 1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides counselling and advice on family problems and domestic violence and sexual assault.</li> <li>Community education workshops (1 day) conducted in villages (not yet visited all villages); workshops for schools and other organisations.</li> <li>Conduct campaigns using media for IWD, national days</li> <li>Research ( currently research on response of justice system to VAW cases)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Study of Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Women in Western Samoa, Research Report 1996</li> <li>video on domestic violence in Samoa (intended for national TV and training purposes) to be produced in 2002 (funded by UNDP Human Rights Fund).</li> <li>website launched 2001 (www.moa.ws)</li> </ul>
National Council of Women (Fono o Aoa Samoa)	<p>Tetee atu le sasa ma le upu malosia ("Hold back your hands and your harsh words") Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting Phase 2 of a research and training program that uses parenting and communication issues as a basis to address violence against children (physical abuse and harsh words) using staged process that involves people devising their own solutions. Target groups for training have expanded from groups of mothers to include church women's organisations, preschool teachers, teacher refresher training and taxi drivers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workbooks,</li> <li>training materials,</li> <li>posters,</li> <li>information sheets for trainer of trainers and community trainers</li> </ul>
SUNGO	<p>Est 1997. Umbrella organisation for NGOs (25 financial members; more than 100 NGOs and CBOs in Samoa) - includes 14 women's NGOs.. Flow, Survival Foundation and Bahai Youth Group use theatre/dances to raise awareness on issues such as suicide, domestic violence.</p>	<p>Status of Ratification and Implementation: CEDAW, CRC and FWCW in American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, prepared for the UN Theme Group on Gender and Development, 2000</p>
ECPAT Samoa		<p>Training manual and video in Samoan on child sexual abuse produced in 2001</p>



## OTHER PACIFIC NATIONS

<b>COOK ISLANDS</b>		
*Punanga Tauturu Inc (Cook Islands Women's Crisis Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducts regular community education activities that focus on domestic violence, legal literacy, CEDAW and CRC.</li> <li>• Has also conducted workshops for police focusing on procedures in collecting evidence for assault and sexual abuse cases.</li> <li>• Media campaigns.</li> <li>• Runs programs on law, human rights, CRC, bullying and "keeping ourselves safe" with schools.</li> </ul>	Legal literacy pamphlets (through RRRTTP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marital rights</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• Property Rights</li> <li>• Access &amp; Custody</li> <li>• Divorce</li> </ul>
<b>FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA</b>		
Federated States of Micronesia National Women's Advisory Council		
<b>KIRIBATI</b>		
* Aia Maea Aimen Kiribati (AMAK)	Est: 1995 as part of the Ministry of Environment and Social Development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducts a weekly radio program on VAW.</li> <li>• Provides counselling, lobbying to ratify CEDAW and law reform.</li> <li>• Provides training on family law.</li> </ul>	A local video on domestic violence has been produced as a teaching aid.
<b>SOLOMON ISLANDS</b>		
Catholic Women's League		
National Council of Women	Est: early 1980s Domestic violence discussed in workshops held with NCW members	
*Family Support Centre	Est:1995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers support to individuals and families - counselling, legal advice</li> <li>• Conducts community awareness workshops on domestic violence, sexual abuse, women's rights and counselling.</li> <li>• FSC Theatre Group used in community awareness raising.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resource library.</li> <li>• Media and campaigns.</li> </ul>	
<b>TONGA</b>		
* Centre for Women and Children (CWC)	Est: 1995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on violence in the family</li> <li>• Counselling services &amp; crisis centre</li> <li>• Regular outreach to villages and outer islands</li> <li>• Works closely with schools and provides counselling to students.</li> </ul>	
<b>TUVALU</b>		
* National Council for Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on assisting women to better their lives and living standards.</li> <li>• Conducts community education in communities.</li> <li>• Organises International Women's Day activities.</li> </ul>	

\* Denotes members of Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women, coordinated by the FWCC

Note: The above information is not an exhaustive list of organisations and activities relating to violence against women and girls in the Pacific Region.

**The Organisational map is based on information from:**

**meetings and documentation seen in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa as part of the Regional Scan consultancy in May 2002;**

**a range of documents and websites, including:**

- **Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Website 2002**
- **Christine Bradley (2001), Family & Sexual Violence in PNG: an integrated and long term strategy. Report to the Family Violence Action Committee of the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council Discussion Paper No. 48**
- **Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women, Papua New Guinea Network Members In-Country Exchange on Advocacy and Action Against Violence Against Women, Port Moresby 2001**

## ANNEX 6

### Pacific Region Ratification Charts

UN Convention Abbreviations	
<b>CCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>CCPR-OP1</b>	Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>CESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CEDAW-OP</b>	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRC-OP-AC</b>	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
<b>CRC-OP-SC</b>	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
<b>CNMW</b>	Convention on the Nationality of Married Women
<b>CCM</b>	Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriage
<b>SCAS</b>	Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery
<b>CATOC</b>	Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime
<b>CATOC-TP</b>	Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime –Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children

### Ratifications as of February 2002

	Convent-ions	ICCP R	CCPR- OP1	ICESC R	CEDAW - OP	CEDAW	ICER D	CRC- OP- AC	CRC- OP-SC	CRC	CNM W	CCM	CAT OC	CATOC -OP-TP	SCAS
No	Country														
1	Australia	413Aug 80	425 Sep 91	410 Dec 75	6	428 Jul 83	430Sep 75	6	<i>s 18 Dec 01</i>	417 Dec 90	4	6	4	6	46 Jan 58
2	Cook Islands	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4 Jun 97a	6	6	6	6	6
3	Fiji	6	6	6	6	4 28 Aug 95	4 Jan 73d	6	6	413Aug 93	4	4	6	6	412 Jun 72
4	Kiribati*	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	411Dec 95a	6	6	6	6	
5	Marshall Islands	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4 5 Oct 93	6	6	6	6	6
6	Micronesia/Federated States	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	45 May 93 a	6	6	6	6	6
7	Nauru	<i>S:12 Nov 01</i>	<b>S:12 Nov 01</b>	6	6	6	<b>S:12 Nov 01</b>	<b>S:8Sep 00</b>	<b>S:8Sep 00</b>	4	6	6	6	6	6
8	New Zealand	428 Dec 78	4 26 May 89a	428 Dec 78	48 Sep 00	4 10 Jan 85	4 22 Nov 72	4 12 Nov 01	<i>s: 7 Sep 00</i>	4 9 Apr 93	4	4	<i>412 Jun 64</i>	4	<i>4 26 Apr 62</i>
9	Niue	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4 20 Dec 95	6	6	6	6	6
10	Palau	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		6	6	6	6	6
11	PNG	6	6	6	6	4 12 95a	427 Jan 82	6	6	4 2 Mar 93	6	6	6	6	6
12	Samoa	6	6	6	6		6	6	6	4	4	4	6	6	6
13	Solomon Islands	6	6	417 Mar 82 d	6	4 Oct 92	417Mar 82d	6	6	4 29 Nov 94	6	6	6	6	43 Sep81

	Convent- ions	ICCP R	CCPR- OP1	ICESC R	CEDAW - OP	CEDAW	ICER D	CRC- OP- AC	CRC- OP-SC	CRC	CNM W	CCM	CAT OC	CATOC -OP-TP	SCAS
14	<b>Tonga*</b>	6	6	6	6	6	416Feb 72a	6	6	46 Nov 95	6	6	6	6	6
15	<b>Tuvalu*</b>	6	6	6	6	46 Oct 99a	6	6	6	42Sep 95a	6	6	6	6	6
16	<b>Vanuatu</b>	6	6	6	6	48 Sep 95	6	6	6	47 Jul 93	6	6	6	6	6

**Key..**

4 ratified = convention is legally binding to member state

Year Ratified = for eg 99, 02 etc

A accession = ratification and signature at a later date than first presentation

D succession = newly formed state has agreed to inherit the treaty obligations of its predecessor

S signature = indicates that a country supports the purposes of the document, but it is not legally committed to comply with the provisions until the countries legislature officially ratifies it.

\* = non state party to UN convention

**Sources:**

- International Women's Tribune Centre, Rights of Women, A Guide to the Most Important United Nations Treaties on Women's Human Rights, New York, 1998
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Status Ratifications of the Principal Human Rights Treaties as of 8 Feb 2002

## ANNEX 7

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## ANNEX 8

### BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY LEITANA NEHAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, BOUGAINVILLE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*"We can't wait for Bougainville to have peace, our group is working for peace now."*  
Helen Hakena, LNWDA, 1997

#### 1. Conflict in Bougainville

*"The Old African proverb puts it so well. When the elephants fight it is the grass that suffers. Well, on Bougainville, an island just 120 miles long, and with a population of some 160,000 it appears that the elephants come in various shapes and sizes even in the form of Australian helicopters. But the grass is pretty much the same as it is in any battle zone. It is made up of the powerless and the poor, above all the women and children."* Atu Emberson-Bain, 1993.<sup>11</sup>

Several countries in the Pacific have recently experienced, and are now dealing with the legacy of coups and civil wars, including Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Fiji, East Timor, Kanaky, West Papua and Fiji. As is the case globally, war, and the militarised society that results, has a devastating and lasting effect on the status and human rights of women and children. Economic insecurity, particularly increased poverty and vulnerability for women, an increased tolerance and expectation of violence within the community, and the use of violence against women as a weapon of war, has repercussions long after the war is over.<sup>12</sup>

#### 1.2. The Background to Bougainville

Bougainville is made up of two main islands, Bougainville and Buka Islands and is situated just west of the Solomon Islands and some 600 miles from Port Moresby, the capital of PNG. Although Bougainvilleans are much closer, physically and culturally to the Solomon Islands, Bougainville was partitioned from the Solomons in an agreement between Germany & Great Britain in 1899. Australia assumed control over PNG & Bougainville under a League of Nations Mandate after World War I. In September 1975 Papua New Guinea became Independent.

Fuelled by massive environmental and cultural destruction caused by the Panguna Copper Mine, and growing dissatisfaction over compensation to traditional landowners, civil war broke out on Bougainville in the late 1980's between the Papua New Guinea Defence Forces (PNGDF) and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). What began as a dispute over the copper mine blew up into a full scale war for secession and independence from PNG, resulting in nine years of war that Bougainvilleans call "the Crisis". From 1990–1995 Bougainville was cut off from all outside aid, assistance, and human rights monitoring, including journalists, through an air and sea blockade imposed by the PNG Government.<sup>13</sup>

Behind this blockade massive human rights violations by both sides took place. Both the BRA and the PNGDF subjecting the people of Bougainville to rape torture, extrajudicial killings, forced labour and harassment. An estimated 12,000 people died, mainly through lack of medical attention for preventable diseases, with over 2,000 children dying from lack of access to health services.<sup>14</sup>

#### 1.3. Women in Bougainville and the Crisis

Bougainville by tradition is a matrilineal society, where people trace their clans through their mothers. Bougainvillean women had a high status which has been eroded through colonisation, the enormous

<sup>11</sup> Atu Emberson-Bain, 1993, Bougainville: Women's Voices From a Pacific War Zone, Radio Pacific, Auckland

<sup>12</sup> Fiji Women's Crises Centre, 201, The Impact of the May 19 Coup on Women in Fiji: A research Report, August 2001.

<sup>13</sup> International Women's Development Agency, IWDA News #44, 1997

<sup>14</sup> IWDA News #44, 1997

influence of the Church with its patriarchal hierarchy, the transfer to a cash economy which has conferred significant economic power onto men, and nine years of civil war.<sup>15</sup>

To escape the fighting, women took their children to hide in the caves and jungles of Bougainville. Without access to medicine, their village vegetable gardens, electricity, education or communication, they survived in extremely harsh conditions for many years. In a 1995 Bougainville Provincial Council of Women meeting women from around Bougainville reported:

*“Many of our women were tortured, killed or pack raped. They were terrorised for speaking for the rights of the family. Some were killed for taking such a stand. They witnessed their sons and husbands being killed and treated like animals. Women were accused of hiding and refusing their sons and husbands from joining the “Authority” of the day. They were punished for refusing to cook or give or give foodstuffs or water. They were punished for withholding information they were suspected of. A lot of our young women were raped at the barrel of the guns. We had many women die at childbirth.”*<sup>16</sup>

Bougainville women have been at the forefront of demanding peace and working towards reconciliation.

Since the signing of the Burnham Declaration in July 1997 there has been progress towards peace in Bougainville. But nine years of conflict has deeply affected all Bougainvilleans – men, women, youth and children. The war has created trauma, conflict and divisions within families, communities and between them. Bougainvillean children have grown up in an atmosphere of violence; resistance and BRA fighters are finding it hard to return to normal life; and homebrew consumption is contributing to high levels of community violence and violence against women.<sup>17</sup>

## **2. Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency**

### **2.1. Origins and Organisational Details**

Agnes Titus from Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency says: “Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency began its work in 1992 as a result of the violence, pain and suffering inflicted on the women and children of Bougainville during the last decade of civil crisis.”<sup>18</sup>

During the Crisis women who were key in establishing Leitana Nehan Development Agency (LNWDA or “Leitana Nehan”) worked to unite women’s voices in their demands for peace and ensure women’s representation and women’s demands were heard in peace negotiations. Their position was one of demand rather than request. In 1995 women from around Bougainville prepared a position paper to present at the NGO Forum at the Fourth World Conference on Women which stated “Our womenfolk reject violence outright. We the women leaders of Bougainville, firmly believe that without the direct involvement and participation of women in negotiations and decision making in restoration to normalcy, there will be no peace and reconciliation in Bougainville.”<sup>19</sup>

In 1997 Helen Hakena, LNWDA Executive Director, said of LNWDA’s work, “We can’t wait for Bougainville to have peace, our group Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency is working for peace now.” As people started returning to their homes, and Bougainville moved towards a ceasefire, Leitana Nehan spread its peace and reconciliation work further into Bougainville.

Leitana Nehan was formally launched in 1995 by Helen Hakena and Agnes Titus with the goal of creating a world safe for women and children: LNWDA’s motto is Women Weaving Together Bougainville. Leitana Nehan works to improve the quality of life of Bougainvilleans and to work for meaningful and effective

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<sup>15</sup> E. Cox, Background to Bougainville

<sup>16</sup> IWDA News #30, article prepared by Moira Finucane: Bougainville Backgrounder: When Elephants Fight it is the Grass that Suffers, June 1997

<sup>17</sup> E. Cox, Background to Bougainville

<sup>18</sup> Pacific Regional Network of Women Working Against Violence Against Women, Preliminary Meeting & in-country briefing on VAW, Port Moresby 2001

<sup>19</sup> Extract from Annual Meeting of the Bougainville Provincial Council of Women, 1995, in IWDA News #44, 1997

participation of women in the development of Bougainville. LNWDA is managed by a board of directors, has nine paid staff, one unpaid staff member and 70 volunteers carrying out community awareness and education.

LNWDA's major sources of funding are AusAID, PNG Community Development Scheme, CAA/Oxfam, IWDA, New Zealand High Commission and the British High Commission.

## 2.2. Activities and Strategic Approach

LNWDA recognise the strong connection between VAW and the militarisation of Bougainvillean society and are working not only with women but with men, youths and entire communities towards reconciliation and freedom from violence. LNWDA's approach uses "grassroots, home-grown initiatives and strategies."<sup>20</sup> LNWDA actively builds relationships between young people from different communities within Bougainville, to help heal the deep rifts created by war and build trust. Leitana Nehan works with ex-combatants and encourage men to be involved in their work to assist their recovery, to 'balance the teams' sharing of experiences', to involve them in building peace and to offer role models to other young men in the community. Using this approach, Lietana now have a network of over 1000 young people working with them and 70 volunteers carrying out educational awareness.<sup>21</sup> The award of the 2001 UNIFEM Millennium Peace Prize for Women to LNWDA was an international recognition of its contribution to preventing war and building peace.

## 2.3. Awareness Raising Workshops

LNDWA uses 70 volunteers who travel in teams of 7 people on foot where necessary from village to village across 150 selected communities and schools in the 10 districts of Bougainville. The aim of the community based work is to strengthen communities for peace; topics include Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Rape, Sexual Abuse, Sexual Harassment, Incest, HIV/AIDS, Homebrewed Alcohol and Violence.

Part of this work involves '**youth mobilisation**' – bringing people together to share ideas. Leitana Nehan bring what were 'hard-core' rebels out of guerilla fighting and into the women-led peace movement. The young ex-combatants are proving very loyal to the women's movement and LNWDA and their involvement in the programs is seen as part of their ongoing recovery and rehabilitation. The anti-violence workshops help boys and young men to understand that the guns and violence of their childhood are not a necessary part of their futures. Further, LNWDA use male volunteers to run awareness workshops on Violence against Women and to share their experiences.<sup>22</sup>

In LNWDA's **young women's workshops**, young women come from all over Bougainville and for the first time in 10 years, have the opportunity to socialise, to share their ideas and concerns, and to learn. The workshops encourage young women who have lived with violence for ten years to speak out, learn about their bodies, to discuss issues of concern. The workshops provide a safe environment for young women to discuss their feelings and realise they are not alone.<sup>23</sup>

A vital part of Leitana Nehan's awareness work is on **homebrew**. Homebrew is an extremely potent locally made liquor, 90% alcohol, that did not exist in Bougainville before the war. It is a problem all over the island, and is associated with high rates of violence against women. Children as young as 12 may drink homebrew. Helen Hakena says: "They have seen things they are hiding. They are trying to forget what they have seen by drowning themselves in homebrew. It's the same for their parents." Leitana Nehan's homebrew awareness t use many young volunteers, women and men. "First the youth were very resistant. They thought we were trying to stop homebrew completely. But we told them no, we aren't trying to stop people from drinking brewing. We are only here to talk about the problems caused by homebrew so you're aware of

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<sup>20</sup> Papua New Guinea Network Members In-Country Exchange on Advocacy and Action and Action Against Violence Against Women, PNG, 2001

<sup>21</sup> Fiji Women's Crisis Centre website, regional network, [www.fijiwomen.com](http://www.fijiwomen.com)

<sup>22</sup> LNWDA response to Pacific Regional Scan Questionnaire 2202; UNIFEM Women at the Peace Table, Millennium Peace Prize 2201 <http://www.unifem.undp.org/mpprize/papuabio.html>

<sup>23</sup> Community Aid Abroad, article "Who can change things? We Can!" in Horizons July 1999; UNIFEM Women at the Peace Table, Millennium Peace Prize 2001 <http://www.unifem.undp.org/mpprize/papuabio.html>

them. Then the young men started coming”<sup>24</sup> LNWDA staff and volunteers have seen a marked decrease in the incidence of homebrew abuse and violence in the communities they work in.

The **materials** used by Leitana Nehan for community awareness work are derived from materials produced by the FWCC, NGOs in other parts of PNG and Australia. LNWDA customise and translate materials on rape, DV, homebrew, sexual harassment and other topics into local languages and other dialects for use in interactive workshops. A local artist has created LNWDA posters on domestic violence, rape and alcohol. Leitana Nehan has a weekly radio program in Melanesian Pisin.

#### **2.4. Counselling for survivors of violence**

Leitana Nehan provides counselling through 8 mobile counsellors who visit communities and schools. For women and girls who have experienced violence, rape and sexual abuse, LNWDA work to involve the family in ending the abuse. LNWDA has found that “support by families has really worked. For example: both male and female members of the family confronting abusers puts and end to the violence, family members (male) taking the abusers to court and family members (male) intervening in fights.” Leitana Nehan notes that this is because family lines are continued through women, so it is in the interests of men in the family to stop violence and abuse.<sup>25</sup>

#### **2.5. Public Advocacy & Training**

LNWDA uses its weekly radio program promoting peace to overcome the geographical barriers of Bougainville Islands. The radio program covers community awareness workshop topics focusing on gender and development, women’s rights, VAW, children’s rights, rape, sexual assault - and allows for networking and messages to be transmitted across Districts and informs people about the progress of the peace process.

In terms of policy and participation Leitana Nehan is still demanding peace and representation, as negotiations for Bougainville’s self-determination continue. Leitana Nehan is also urging the government, the police, the church and the courts to do more to protect the rights of women and girls in addition to providing gender training for police and court officials. Leitana Nehan has an effective policy of “speaking out when there are rape cases”<sup>26</sup>

#### **2.6. Major Impacts**

Leitana Nehan has been instrumental in forwarding the peace process in Bougainville. This has been achieved through provision of post-trauma counselling and legal support for women who have or are being abused, support for past combatants, facilitation of traditional reconciliation ceremonies and communications throughout the Province.

Community involvement has been critical. Each of the 10 Districts of Bougainville has a team of seven volunteers who regularly come to Buka Island for training and return to implement DV prevention work in their District. These volunteers speak the local dialects, understand the situation in their Districts and build alliances with volunteers in other Districts. The project team models respectful behaviours between men and women, which gradually motivates staff members, volunteers and villagers to look for more appropriate ways of relating.<sup>27</sup>

Building a strong support network of committed dedicated volunteers across Bougainville working in schools and communities has been core to the success of Leitana Nehan's work. One of LNWDA's major achievements is “being able to gain the trust and confidence of communities. The core reasons for these achievements are community involvement from the very beginning.” LNWDA link this trust right back to involvement in the peace process through women's groups in Bougainville, and work with volunteers in their own communities and with ex-combatants. Leitana Nehan notes that “village chiefs, district managers and church leaders have been involved in selecting district volunteers for training. Community leaders have been

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<sup>24</sup> Helen Hakena, IWDA Appeal Letter 1997

<sup>25</sup> LNWDA response to Pacific Regional Scan Questionnaire 2002

<sup>26</sup> UNIFEM Women at the Peace Table, Millennium Peace Prize 2001

<http://www.unifem.undp.org/mpprize/papuabio.html>

<sup>27</sup> Communication with A. Goldflam, development worker and recent IWDA Pacific Program Manager

involved in selecting communities and schools to be involved in the workplans. Volunteers are based in their own districts and work with their own people, using their own languages.”<sup>28</sup>

LNWDA’s awareness work in communities and schools on the problems encountered by women and girls, has led to a decrease in the number of victims, more support of victims by families, respect for women and girls and continued open discussion by communities in areas targeted by LNWDA volunteers. More women are now aware of their rights and are able to speak out.<sup>29</sup>

## **2.7. Gaps and Urgent Needs**

Leitana Nehan identifies the gender sensitivity of police and the courts as a major obstacle in its work. “Police must be gender sensitive and they must enforce the law without discrimination”. Leitana Nehan also state that the church needs to recognise that violence against women is a issue that has to be dealt with, and identify a need for more resources for awareness programs and rehabilitation for victims of violence.<sup>30</sup>

Fabian Kotsin, a young man from Bougainville says *“For the youths of Bougainville the crisis is still happening. Ten years of violence is imprinted in the minds of the youths. They were both the perpetrators and the victims. The youths, the mothers and the young girls were the real victims. It is the youths who were the victims of the crisis who are now causing the violence against women in Bougainville There is an urgent need to change the attitude of these youths. The courses that are run by Leitana Women’s Development Agency have the effect of changing these attitudes.*

*“Although the organisation is a women’s organisation there are many youth volunteers who give their time to help women promote peace. Many of these volunteers are ex-combatants and the organisation is helping them change their lives for the better.”<sup>31</sup>*

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<sup>28</sup> LNWDA response to Pacific Regional Scan Questionnaire 2002

<sup>29</sup> LNWDA response to Pacific Regional Scan Questionnaire 2002

<sup>30</sup> PNG Network Members In-Country Exchange on Advocacy and Action Against Violence Against Wopmen, PNG, 2001

<sup>31</sup> PNG Network Member In-Country Exchange on Advocacy and Action Against Violence Against Women, PNG, 2001

## ANNEX 9

### BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY - FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE, FIJI

#### **Fiji**

Ceded by Fiji chiefs to Queen Victoria in 1874 to end territorial conquests among rival kingdoms, Fiji was granted independence in 1970. By this time, Indian Fijians, with their roots in Indian labour brought in by the British to work on the sugar plantations, formed nearly half the population. Fiji's recent political history has been marked by political unrest and an erosion of human rights, with three political coups staged by indigenous Fijian nationalists since 1987, focused/building on conflict around indigenous Fijian and Indo-Fijian representation in government. With the most recent coup being in May 2000, led by George Speight with a following of armed indigenous Fijian supremacists, Fiji has had fifteen years of ongoing constitutional uncertainty and destabilised legal and human rights. (*FWRM NGO Report on the Status of Women, Fiji 2002*)

Fiji has a population of nearly 825,000 people. Ethnically Fiji's population is roughly half indigenous Fijian and just under half Indo-Fijian. The three major languages spoken in Fiji are Fijian, Hindi and English.

#### **The Situation of Women**

The real progress for women has been severely curtailed as a result with the most recent coup, and the ensuing political instability and loss of the rule of law. "Existing forms of direct and indirect discrimination against women have been exacerbated. All reform bills and other lobbying towards equality for women have been obstructed, judicial process have become chaotic, poverty in general has increased, and democracy has been subverted with obvious impacts on women." (*FWRM NGO Report on the Status of Women, Fiji 2002*)

However, whilst recent events have worsened the situation for women in Fiji, it is important to note that, in the words of Shamima Ali, coordinator of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre "domestic violence has always been there even before May 19<sup>th</sup> 2000" (*FWCC Newsletter Vol 5 Issue 2 October 2001*)

Fiji, like many other Pacific nations has a strong emphasis on culture and is bound by many religious and cultural constraints. The issue of sex is considered taboo, children are expected to be seen and not heard and child discipline often takes the form of physical abuse. There is a culture of silence around child sexual abuse through fear of the legal process and fear of being stigmatised. There is great stigma throughout the Pacific to reporting violence against women. There are strong social, cultural and religious acceptance of and justification for violence. Women are dissuaded from reporting violence because of the stigma and shame it will bring to the family and cultural practises such as *bulbulu* can take the decision out of the women's hands and prevent her from reporting. Legally women's rights are not well protected; rape is only defined as sexual intercourse, rape has to be corroborated by a witness or medical evidence, and trials for both child and woman victims are held in open courts. Domestic violence is trivialised and when, rarely, cases do go to court, they rarely warrant custodial sentences. There are no laws specifically relating to sexual harassment; during a recent FWRM study of female police officers 80-90% of officers interviewed treated offensive jokes or comments as "part of the job" (*FWCC For the National Congress on Women, Oct 1998*)

As the Crisis Centre puts it "rape is the only crime for which a victim has to prove she is not guilty and did not invite the rape" (*FWCC For the National Congress on Women, Oct 1998*)

#### **The Organisation – Fiji Women's Crisis Centre**

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre is the oldest and most experienced organisation in the Pacific region working on violence against women. Established in 1984 in response to women's concern about the prevalence of sexual assaults on women in Fiji and the total lack of services available to victims and survivors, the Centre aimed to provide a service for victims of rape. As they gained experience, they



became aware of the magnitude of violence against women generally, and broadened their work and their charter to tackle Violence against Women and children from many different angles. The Centre is now the hub of Pacific action on violence against women.

The Centre is a multi racial, non government organisation committed to the betterment of women's lives through collective efforts against violence. The Centre operates on the principle of Empowerment of Women and is based on the conviction that women's rights are human rights. The Centre believes that sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence and sexual harassment are violent crimes against women and is dedicated to the belief that no one has the right to inflict violence on a woman or child under any circumstances. The Centre believes that people must work together to create a society where women and children can live without fear of violence. (*FWCCC The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, information booklet, 2001*)

The Centre began as a collective but has recently registered as a charitable organisation, putting in place a management committee including a board of trustees, management staff and the Project Officers of its four branches. Shamima Ali, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Coordinator and a staff of 16 oversee the day-to day running of the Centre, alongside branch staff for the Ba, Labasa and Lautoka Women's Crisis Centres and a number of volunteers.

Within Fiji, the Centre has been instrumental in an increasing number of crisis counselling and legal, medical and other practical support services for women and children experiencing violence; through its own work, through work with its three branches, and through its mobile counselling service in rural and outlying areas. It has conducted Fiji's first national study of the prevalence and incidence of violence against women in 2000 and has played a key role in law reform, community awareness, police education and campaigns to end violence.

As it has grown in expertise and skills, the Centre has taken on a vital role in the work to end violence against women in the Pacific Region through its Regional Training Program for police, social welfare workers, judiciary and church agencies twice a year, through organising the Regional Conference for the Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women every four years and through ongoing support and resourcing, acting as a clearing house and a resource centre for information throughout the Pacific. The Centre publishes a successful and popular regional newsletter through the Regional Network and Provides support for the establishment of crisis centre throughout the region. The Centre represents the Network of Violence Against women at global meetings including those with UN Special Rapporteur on the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### **Activities and Strategic Approach.**

#### **Direct Counselling and Direct Services for Women and Girls**

The Centre offers a free and confidential comprehensive counselling service for women and girls that are victims/survivors of violence which includes in person, on-line and 24hr phone counselling in Hindi, Fijian and English. Reverse and collect calls are accepted. The Centre offers legal advice and advocacy, accompanying or referring clients to courts and the police.

The Centre's focus on counselling reflects their commitment to empowerment of women at an individual level, providing women with information about their legal rights, services available and empowering women to make informed decision about their lives. The Centre's counselling focuses on a woman's right to live free of violence. This is in contrast to some of the other counselling available, such as that available from religious organisations which will usually tell a woman to reconcile with her husband, discouraging women from doing anything that would lead to the disintegration of the family unit.

Labasa, Ba and Lautoka Women's Crisis Centres, branches of the Fiji Women's Crisis centre also follow this model of counselling.

- **From 1984 – 2001 the FWCC has had 11004 new cases and from 1991-2001 has had 11,716 repeat cases. This excludes phone counselling (FWCC website 2001) (FWCC Incidence and Prevalence 2001)**
- **The Labasa, Ba and Lautoka Women's Crisis Centres who have had nearly 3,3000 new cases in the period from 1999 – 2001. (FWCC website 2001) (FWCC Incidence and Prevalence 2001)**
- **In total, the Centres (Suva, Ba , Labasa, Lautoka) have counselled nearly 19,000 clients between 1995 –1999.**

### **Mobile Counselling**

The Centre's mobile counselling service started in 1999, growing out of an identified need to reach women in rural and outlying areas who could not easily access the Centre's services. For these women the act of travelling to the Centre for assistance may alert their abuser and put them at further risk, and children in particular are unlikely to travel for help. Counsellors from the Centre regularly travel to rural and outlying areas and base themselves at the local health centre for several days, making their services available to women in the area. (FWCC website <http://www.fijiwomen.com./counseling/mobile.htm>) This allows them to expand their work from counselling alone to working with local health workers and police in prevention's and early intervention. Working in with the health workers means that nurses and doctors who suspect a girl or woman is at high risk can refer them to counsellors. To avoid the stigma and potential risk attached to seeing a counsellor, doctors are now working in with Crisis Centre staff and making 'regular' appointments with high risk patients to coincide with the time that the mobile counsellors are visiting. (AusAID, *prefeasibility study on Child Abuse and Child Protection in Pacific Island Communities*, PDD, 2000) Through conversation with health workers in communities, mobile counselling has also allowed counsellors and the Centre to get a better picture of the problems women are facing in the areas visited. The counsellors also conduct formal and informal community education sessions with local health staff, women's groups, community leaders and women seeking assistance. (FWCC, *Incidence and Prevalence 2001*) (FWCC, *The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, information booklet 2001*)

Mobile counsellors made 22 visits to rural and outlying areas in 1999/00 and over 40 visits in 2000/01.

### **Community Education & Public Advocacy**

On a community level the centre works with women's groups, church groups, schools and other local organisations. They give talks, runs workshops and seminars on the issues of Violence and Women and Children. They also provide training and awareness to government and community institutions including police, social welfare, the military, private companies and tertiary institutions. One example of this is the recent request from hotel staff and management to discuss sexual harassment and assist in the creation of a sexual harassment policy. (FWCC *Working to End Violence Against women in the Pacific Region 2002*)

The Centre has a significant media presence in Fiji and actively engage with the media – commenting on critical issues, critiquing media coverage of women and running gender sensitivity workshops/ awareness sessions for journalists. The Centre run regular radio programs in three languages on the local Fiji radio stations.

Two of the most significant annual campaigns the Centre runs are International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. International Women's Day has been celebrated by the FWCC since 1987, with a primary emphasis on raising public awareness on the issue of women's human rights particularly violence against women. Each year the Centre selects a theme of national relevance and organises with other women's organisations activities including panel discussions, marches, rallies, press conferences and women's festivals around this theme. (FWCC *Breaking the Silence 1998*)

For the last ten years the FWCC has participated in the 16 Days Activism Against Gender Violence, an annual campaign which begins on November 25th - The International Day of Action Against Violence Against Women and ends on December 10<sup>th</sup> World Human Rights Day. Activities have included campaigns to encourage men to take responsibility to end violence against women, campaigns on domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and child abuse. The Centre reports that "Over the years the scope and intensity of the campaign has magnified. The media is used extensively throughout the campaign including television and broadcasting of community messages of violence against women, press conferences, newspaper supplements interviews and media coverage of activities" (*FWCC, Breaking the Silence*, 1998) In 1998, FWCC television ads on domestic violence as part of their annual "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" won a number of media awards including the Grand Award of \$10,000 worth of free advertising. (*FWCC Newsletter* 1998)

Since 1991 the Centre has organised events to commemorate World Human Rights day, and have launched community education materials, held open days at the Centre and its branches around Fiji and conducted many public activities including workshops, forums and panel discussions.

Since the establishment of the Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women, the Centre has networked with member groups on the celebration of IWD and participation in 16 Days of Activism. These campaigns have now spread throughout the Pacific.

The Centre also plays a very active role in lobbying for law reform, and lobbying locally and globally for women's human rights.

**Community Education and training have reached 7,200 women, men and children in the period from 1995-1999**

**Regional Coordination and Networking**

FWCC coordinates the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women, and is a member of international networks that focus on women's human rights, including a Pacific wide NGO coalition on Human Rights which conducts activities in a number of countries. The Pacific Women's Network has 21 member from 11 Pacific Island countries and meets every four years. The first meeting, in 1992, was an opportunity to discuss a range of common concerns from violence to representation and land ownership. The meeting, attended by women from 11 Pacific Island countries generated a lot of awareness on issues such as domestic violence, and this was reflected by the emergence of a number of new crisis counselling centres in the Pacific including Vanuatu, PNG, the Solomon Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu Kiribati and Pohnpei. (*FWCC Working to End Violence Against Women in the Pacific Region*)

Working with the Network, the Centre played a significant role in Pacific women's preparation for the NGO Forum for the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The Centre took a pivotal role in the Beneath Paradise Pacific Women's Documentation project. This project documented the lives and experiences of women from around the Pacific for the NGO Forum; hosted the first regional workshop of the Beneath Paradise participant organisations; housed the documentation materials that came out of the project, and in 1997 hosted a follow up regional workshop.

Through the Network nearly 50 people from PNG have been trained in Fiji by the FWCC. The Centre is the Managing agent for the Vanuatu Women's Crisis Centre, and requests for assistance in setting up crisis centre management structures have been made by organisations from Samoa, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. (*FWCC Working to End Violence Against Women in the Pacific Region*)

The quarterly Network newsletter: 'Pacific Women Against Violence' is published by the Centre and has become a highly valued source of information on violence against women in the Pacific and activities and strategies to end violence.

The Centre also participates in international and national conferences, consultations, meetings, workshops and global campaigns against violence against women and girls.

### **Training**

In 1995 the Centre began to offer two types of training:

- The Regional Training Program which offers 4 week attachments to women who are already working in or intend to work in providing counselling and crisis support services. The training gives women the skills required to set up and manage crisis services. As of June 2001, 120 people from around the region had been trained by the FWCC. Trainees work alongside the Centre's staff receiving hands on experience in the full scope of crisis services, from counselling and paralegal skills to centre management, administration, advocacy ( including media) and education programs ( *FWCC Breaking the Silence 1998*)
- Short Courses (one or two weeks) are offered twice a year for professional women and men and is designed for small groups – including welfare officers, police, medical personnel, the judiciary, church and development workers – to raise awareness on all aspects and forms of violence against women including gender awareness, CEDAW, the status of women in Pacific societies and the cultural, political and social and economic factors related to gender violence, legal issues, and awareness attitudes and behaviour change needed in dealing with violence. In one week courses participants receive a basic introduction to the issues and analysis of gender violence. The two week courses also include basic counselling skills.

### **Materials**

The centre produces most of its own training materials and campaign materials for use by both adults and children, including a counselling manual, community education manual, and a wide range of community education and campaign materials including legal literacy pamphlets. These materials have been immensely useful to Network members and are often adapted, translated and used in many countries. The Centre houses a valuable collection of documentation of Pacific women's lives, the results of Beneath Paradise: Pacific Women's Documentation project undertaken in preparation for the NGO Forum as part of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The FWCC produces a range of IEC materials on protective behaviours for children: including calendars, book labels, rulers for schools, books booklets, posters, banners. Their name labels for school books are a sheet of 8 different stickers with the 8 rules for safety, such as "it is never too late to ask for help. I can keep asking until I get the help I need" "I shout NO if someone tries to touch me in ways that make me feel frightened, uncomfortable or confused. Then I go and tell a grown-up I trust what happened" alongside the FWCC phone number.

The Centre launched their website in 2001, which includes vital information and statistics on their work, recent press releases and information on the work and aims of the Regional Network and its Members.

The Centre's Gender Training Manual, to be released in 2002, is being created in consultation with people from 11 Pacific Island Countries. The training manual will be a part of a complete training kit that also includes videos, extra readings, exercises, activities and graphical aides. (*expected out in May 2001 PWAVAW Network Newsletter April 2001*)

### **Information and Research**

The FWCC conducted the first National Survey on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Fiji 2000 and published the comprehensive results: "The Incidence and Prevalence of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: A Research project of the FWCC", in 2001 funded by UNIFEM, the Fiji

Government and the Asia Foundation. The paper is now being used by students, academics, parliamentarians and many others as a source of information.

The Centre has also conducted a research paper on the impact of the 2000 coup on women: “The Impact of the May 19 Coup on Women in Fiji; A research report of the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre, August 2000”, and conducts ongoing documentation of the experiences of women and children who are survivors of violence.

The Centre, with the Fiji Rights Movement and the Ecumenical Centre for Research Education and Advocacy, prepared the NGO Shadow Report “ NGO Report on The Status of Women in the Republic of Fiji Islands” to the CEDAW Committee in 2002.

The Centre acts as a clearing house for information on violence against women locally and globally of which their quarterly newsletter on violence against women in the Pacific is an important component.

### **Impacts of the work of The Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre**

The work of the Centre has had a major impact on the visibility of violence against women in Fiji. Prior to the establishment of the Centre Violence against women was never discussed openly in Fiji. Now seventeen years later, the work of the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre has meant that it is becoming a much debated and publicised issue (*FWCC Working to End Violence Against Women in the Pacific*).

There has been an improvement of services for women and children who are the victims of violence. The police have set up a Sexual Offences Unit and refer cases from there to the FWCC. They have also instituted a no-drop policy for cases of domestic violence, which in theory means that all cases and investigated and charges, are laid. Medical services for victims of gender violence have improved, and health services are also working more closely with the Crisis Centre, to identify high risk patients, and in the provision of services and in referring women to the Centre for counselling.

The Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre, which has had, in the past a ‘radical’ reputation, is now being called upon to participate in and contribute to government subcommittee’s such as the Children’s Coordinating Committee and the Violence Against Women taskforce, church committees and national bodies dealing with key social issues such as suicide, youth issues and reproductive health. The 2001 Research Report of the Prevalence and Incidence of Violence Against Women, funded by UNIFEM, was also partially funded by the government. As the Centre themselves say “ increasingly, there is a grudging respect for the FWCC and recognition of our contribution to improvement and development within society”

### **Gaps & Needs**

“There appears to be little effort on the part of the government to recognise domestic violence as an issue of national concern. The lack of ownership of the problem is indicative of the absence of any kind of government service that addresses the problem of domestic violence.” ( *FWCC The Incidence, Prevalence and Nature of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Fiji 2001*)

The Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre has made detailed recommendations within the report *The Incidence, Prevalence and Nature of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Fiji 2001*, a summary of which is available from their website. These recommendations range from expanding the services and geographical reach of the organisation, to detailed training recommendations for Fiji police, gender training for government departments (Dept. Social Welfare & Education), the judiciary and the church. They are based on a detailed analysis of the shortcoming in provision of services, and entrenched discriminatory attitudes and actions across a range of Fijian institutions, that create an environment where violence against women is both acceptable and unlikely to be addressed.

## ANNEX 10

### BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY THE VANUATU WOMEN'S CENTRE, PORT VILA, VANUATU

Vanuatu Women's Centre  
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"Most women are still unaware they have any rights."

*(Grace Molisa, Time Pacific Journey, August 2001, No 33)*

#### Status of Women and Girls

There are over 80 Islands in Vanuatu and these are spread over a large sea area. Of the 80% of the population that live on the widely dispersed islands, most depend largely on agriculture and fishing for food and cash. Between 30-40% of the population of Port Vila live in urban squatter settlements in sub standard living conditions with high levels of unemployment, which are higher still for females (e.g. 71% in Blacksands).

Vanuatu has a population of 187,000 people; only 46.5% are women, indicating a poor status of women. Around 43% of the total population are under 15 years of age. Vanuatu has high maternal mortality rates of 92 to 138 per 100,000, low use of contraception, high birth rates and high rates of anaemia among women. Teenage pregnancies also appear to be increasing.

Women are poorly represented in decision making and formal employment. There is currently one woman in national Parliament. Discrimination against women is still evident in some laws and the application of law. Other factors contributing to women's lack of power and status in the country include the reinforcement of traditional home making roles on women by the Church and other institutions.

*"Women are still doing more than their share of hard work", says Madelaine Regenvanu, the first female chief, "We plant crops, work in the garden, fish, collect firewood, cook and look after the children. Sometimes the men help, but not much." (Time Pacific Journey, August 2001, No 33)*

*Kastom* (custom) is very strong in Vanuatu. *Kastom* refers to the traditional knowledge, beliefs, technologies, organisational and family systems which guide daily behaviour, life ceremonies and conflict resolution practices. Chiefs are family decision makers and mediators in family disputes and community conflicts. Language and the interpretation of *kastom* also varies across the nation's islands, with over 100 distinct Melanesian dialects. Women generally do not participate in customary decision making systems, although in some regions women may have status as Chiefs and may fulfil some chiefly functions. In *kastom* meetings/courts in some regions (such as the Island of Tanna), women traditionally do not have the right to speak. If they want to speak, they must speak through the Chief. This occurs at the highest level: even women who are standing for Parliament have no right to speak unless invited by the Chief.

Brideprice is widespread and continues to be promoted by Chiefs. It reinforces the belief that women are the property of men and has a very negative effect on women's and girls' ability to enjoy or exercise their rights. " *That [brideprice] makes ni-Vanuatu women feel like objects in a shop*" says

Vanuatu Women's Centre Coordinator, Ms Marilyn Tahī, *"and lets men believe they own their wives labour, sexual services and children."* (Time Pacific Journey, A Place in the Sun, August 20-27 2001, and No 33)

### **The Vanuatu Women's Centre**

Established in 1993 as a non government organisation, the Vanuatu Women's Centre provides a support network for victims of violence, individual and family counselling, community awareness programs, and works for reforming laws and legal processes to better help victims of violence. The Centre strives for a non-violent society.

Vanuatu Women's Centre's work is based on an empowerment and human rights approach: recognising women's right to freedom from violence as a basic human right, and through all services provides encouragement to women to make their own decisions about how to proceed.

The Centre has a paid staff of six women: three counsellors, the Centre Coordinator and two administrative staff, plus many volunteers. Free counselling and support is offered by trained counsellors, who include centre-based counsellors and a mobile counsellor. Counselling is also available at a branch on the second most populous island of Santo, the Sanma Counselling Centre. VWC is the manager and mentor for the Sanma Counselling Centre. VWC has also facilitated the establishment and development of skills for local support by community-based groups, Committees Against Violence Against Women (CAVAWS), with 15 Committees currently working in various parts of Vanuatu.

VWC has a Collective Committee and a Board of Management, set up in 1997. Funding is provided by AusAID (through Fiji Women's Crisis Centre as the managing agent) and New Zealand ODA. Volunteers provide in-kind donations.

Mentoring and support provided by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre continues to be important to VWC. VWC has working partnerships with a range of organisations including the Department of Women's Affairs, Vanuatu National Council of Women, Wan Smolbag, VRDTCA, Vanuatu Family Health Association and the sexual offences unit of the Police.

### **Strategies and Approaches to Ending VAWG**

Violence against women and girls is a serious, widespread problem for women and girls in Vanuatu. It is estimated that 1 in 4 Ni-Vanuatu women are beaten by their partners. The Vanuatu Women's Centre has developed its program over the past ten years, to reflect local needs and circumstances. VWC utilises global best practice in combination with local solutions and responses to customs and needs.

The VWC has an integrated approach to the problem of violence against Ni-Vanuatu women and children, with four main strategies:

- **provision of counselling and support services** to survivors/victims of gender-based violence. VWC provides free, confidential counselling services. This includes phone counselling, in person counselling at the Centre or mobile outreach counselling. Support services include accompaniment of clients to the police, hospitals and courts. In the past 3 years the Vanuatu Women's Centre have counselled and provided information to over 4,000 women and children through their Port Vila operations. This includes women and children contacting or visiting the centre about domestic violence, child maintenance, rape, child abuse and other issues including legal assistance, and outreach on the Island of Efate (the main Island) through mobile counselling. (See VWC client statistics in Annex 16). VWC staff have received paralegal training through RRRT, and VWC is strengthening its provision of legal assistance to women through the appointment of an in-house lawyer in the second half of 2002. For several years VWC has operated a fund to assist women to meet court fees and to have legal representation. The appointment of an in-house lawyer recognises the great demand for this form of assistance. VWC

operates a Safe House (funded by NZODA) in Port Vila providing emergency accommodation for women and children.

- **community education and awareness to change attitudes on violence against women.** VWC's community education and awareness raising program involves visits to outer islands for community meetings and workshops in rural villages on the issues of domestic violence, incest, rape, child abuse, maintenance and legal rights. VWC has a regular radio program, distributes its newsletter through an insert into a national newspaper, and accepts many invitations from schools, church groups, women's groups, academic and tertiary institutions for presentations and workshops. National days, and international campaigns including International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism are utilised by VWC to raise awareness and promote changes in attitudes and behaviour concerning VAWG. A primary focus is to consolidate community-based work in the Islands by strengthening the network of 15 CAVAWS.
- **Awareness raising on legal rights and ongoing legal advocacy work.** VWC's community education and media campaigns have a focus on providing information on legal rights to women and men. VWC has played a major role in raising awareness and lobbying for the Family Protection Order Bill to be brought forward for debate in parliament, which will continue with monitoring its implementation once it is passed through Parliament. VWC obtained the first Domestic Violence Court Order following its introduction as a new court procedure in December 2001, and is raising awareness and monitoring the operation of the new procedures.
- **Continued institutional strengthening of VWC** in all areas of organisational project and financial management.

Each of these strategies is strengthened by processes including: ongoing professional development for staff; development of effective local, national and international partnerships, particularly involvement in the Pacific Women's Network against Violence Against Women; continuity of staff and leadership; support and mentoring from the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, and on-going capacity building and institutional strengthening; access to long term funding; extensive networking, evaluation, planning, documentation and reflection on practice and strategy; community consultation; building local responses and solutions to local problems; and building a program based on women and children's experience of violence.

#### **An Example of Local Strategies: Kastom Courts and Women's Rights**

The VWC has worked hard to increase cooperation and support from Chiefs, in a cultural context where respect for *kastom* generally results in discrimination and further violence against women and children. Breakthroughs have been made with some Chiefs in Vila and *kastom* courts have been used to reinforce women and children's rights. In some cases the violence has stopped and couples have reconciled. In the past, women were not allowed to speak at all during *kastom* courts. This barrier has been broken down in some communities where counsellors and sometimes clients are now invited to speak. This provides an opportunity for VWC both to raise awareness on women's legal rights, and to stress that there will be both a legal and *kastom* consequence if violence continues.

Vanuatu Women's Centre is continuing to work to influence Chiefs and the interpretation and processes of customary law. In the last 12 months there have been murders of five women due to domestic violence. One of these cases had gone before a *kastom* court prior to the murder and the Chief had instructed the couple to live together. The media and public discussion around this case has been influential in promoting awareness of the need for different approaches to dealing with domestic violence, other than reconciliation. The majority of Chiefs still believe that women subjected to violence should remain with their husbands and put up with the violence. When new Chiefs



legislation is passed, having a *kastom* court hearing as a first step in addressing violence may have some power in law.

### **Major Achievements to Date and Next Steps**

*“VWC has created the talking about violence against women in this country.”*

*(Merilyn Tahi, Coordinator, VWC, in response to Pacific Regional Scan Questionnaire, May 2002)*

Since its establishment nearly 10 years ago, the Vanuatu Women’s Centre has had a major impact on addressing violence against women and girls in Vanuatu. It has brought the issue into the public arena and runs an integrated program aimed at ending violence against women and children. The Centre is recognised as making a significant contribution to raising awareness about the issue of VAWG in Vanuatu, advocating and lobbying for changes in attitudes, policy and law, and providing much needed services for women and children.

One of the Centre’s major achievements has been to build up a program that is extending its reach across the country and developing local capacity through CAVAWs. These community-based Committees are seen as more sustainable, culturally suitable and requiring less infrastructure than the establishment of new centres. Training and support for CAVAWS will be a major focus of VWC’s work over the next five years.

VWC recognises that CAVAW members are in the best position to work with their communities over the long term. It is expected that over time CAVAWS will increasingly undertake counselling, community awareness, education, legal advocacy.

**Alongside this approach VWC has identified the need to establish another regional centre to support women and girls experiencing violence in Tanna, where *kastom* is particularly strong and community based work requires the support of a Centre. VWC is currently seeking donor funding for a new Centre in Tafea Province of Tanna.**

### **Major Obstacles, Needs and Gaps**

Major obstacles to ending violence against women and children include the low status of women and girls, discriminatory customs, lack of legal remedies for women through the two legal systems (customary law and national law), general low awareness of women’s and girls rights and lack of gender sensitivity and resources especially at government level. There is a great need for support at all levels of society for work towards ending violence against women and children

### **Sources of Information:**

- Vanuatu Women’s Centre, Program Against Violence Against Women, July 2002-June 2007: Project Design Document
- Vanuatu Women’s Centre, Project Reports on the Program Against Violence Against Women, various for the period 1999-2002
- Time Pacific Journey, various dates

### **VWC Case Studies on Violence Against Women**

#### **Stillbirth**

This is a sad story, which occurred in June 2001, in the central part of the island of Pentecost in Vanuatu. The father had been involved in a community work building a traditional meeting house, and needed some food. He sent his 3-year old son to the mother asking her to bring some food. There was some communications problem between the son and the mother resulting in the mother bringing a

knife to her husband, who became so furious. He immediately produced a head-on kick to his 6-month old pregnant wife in the belly with his soccer boots. The mother suffered injuries resulting in swollen breasts and face and could not eat. She was carried on a wooden stretcher across the island on foot until she was finally put on a truck and taken to the Health Centre, where the baby was delivered, but unfortunately was already dead. The mother was airlifted on an emergency flight to the Northern District Hospital in Luganville, Santo where she underwent surgical operations. She survived.

*VWC was told of this case during a Community Awareness Workshop.*

#### **Extra-marital affair ends in partial paralysis**

A mother was brutally injured with a knife in late 2000. She was involved in an extra-marital affair with a married man, who is very well-educated. This resulted in a heated argument between the woman and the man's wife. A fight broke out and the lover received knife cuts to her right shoulder, the nape of her neck, her thighs and her abdomen. This event took place on the remotest island of the country where good medical facilities are very scarce. Fortunately enough, a doctor on a passing cruise liner helped the local nurse practitioner to save her life. The lady is partially paralysed in her right arm.

*VWC was told of this case during a Community Awareness Workshop.*

#### **Grandmother raped**

A grandmother aged 82 years old was raped in broad daylight in her gardens in August 2000. She was followed by a young man to her gardens in the suburb of Port Vila. She was busy weeding her garden when she was attacked from behind and raped mercilessly. She was taken to Port Vila's Central Hospital, and the Vanuatu Women's Centre Office was contacted by her attending doctor. Two counsellors were sent to the hospital to escort the frightened and shocked grandmother back to the VWC Office where she was counselled and the case reported to the police.

*This case is taken from the VWC file.*

#### **Domestic violence related to church group participation**

Women's weekly church group meetings include weaving, sewing and praying. A mother participated gladly in a meeting, not knowing what was in store for her at home. After the prayer meeting, she returned home only to be assaulted by her husband who apparently was not happy about her going to such meetings. He had never discussed this with her, although this has been part of her life's activities for a long time, and they were a good Christian couple. The woman was assaulted so seriously that she had to be evacuated to the Port Vila Central Hospital to undergo surgery to her ruptured spleen. She was hospitalised for a couple of weeks.

Upon her discharge from hospital, she was taken to the Vanuatu Women's Centre by her relatives and was kept in the Centre's refuge for some time while the Centre dealt with her case. The mother opted for a restraining order against her husband.

*This case is taken from the VWC file.*

#### **Boyfriend beats girlfriend and her mother**

A mother and her daughter were beaten up by an angry boyfriend over the mother's refusal to agree to her daughter marrying him. The mother was seriously injured and had to be fed through intravenous fluids for a couple of days. Her daughter (who has a son with her boyfriend) was also injured and had to receive medications from the local health centre.

The daughter has since left her family and the boyfriend and is currently living in a de facto relationship with another man. Her son is with her mother.

*VWC was told of this case during a Community Awareness Workshop.*

**Acknowledgements:** These case studies are drawn from Vanuatu Women's Centre Program Against Violence Against Women Project Design Document, 2002.

## ANNEX 11

### BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY BAUA BAUA DEVELOPMENT THEATRE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA POPULAR EDUCATION THROUGH THEATRE ARTS

Contact Details: Baua Baua Development Theatre Troupe  
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Baua Baua Development Education Troupe is a local non-government organization (NGO) that provides information, awareness and education to grassroots communities, schools and institutions through educational songs, skits and radio drama. Baua Baua is a grassroots effort initiated in 1995 by Lucas Kou and young women and men from Saksak settlement in Wewak town. They write, act and sing from their own experience, which gives them credibility and their work authenticity and power.

Baua Baua promotes family and community harmony, non-violence, equality of women and men, child protection and the prevention of child abuse, education for all, health, hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, reproductive health and environmental protection.

Baua Baua's main work is with urban and rural communities that are stressed by rapid social and economic change. Urban youth (25 years and under) are the primary target group, who suffer from a lack of non-formal information, education and employment.

The Troupe performs regularly in Wewak town, and in settlements, communities and schools throughout the province. Performances in communities and villages attract women, men, children and youth. Baua Baua has also accompanied government and project health staff to perform in villages and assisted ESCAVAW with campaigns against violence against women and children. Performances have also been held in Port Moresby for national conferences and events.

Baua Baua have produced two cassettes and accompanying songbooks. Examples of their work relating to violence against women and children:

#### Role Plays

- *Giaman Ekskius* (an excuse) –about a husband beating his wife for refusing to go to bed with him.
- *Papa givim bel long pikinini meri* (incest related cases) –about a female child without freedom and forced to have sex with her father.
- *Tupela meri pait long man* (women fighting for husband) –women fighting over a man, leading to family breakups

#### Songs

- *Giaman Famili* (abusing adopted child) –about an adopted child doing all the housework (child abuse).
- *Marit Long Skin* (marriage without love) –a song about a husband using his wife as property which results in rape and wife beating.
- AIDS song

#### Play

- *Man inap mekim senis* (man can make a difference)

## ANNEX 12

### BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY – WAN SMOLBAG THEATRE, VANUATU COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND THEATRE

**Contact details:**

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Wan Smolbag Theatre was founded in 1989 to work with communities on social and environmental issues.

Since then Wan Smolbag has prepared a range of plays on health, population and environmental issues and performed these for communities around Vanuatu. Many theatre pieces have been commissioned by government agencies, development projects and donor organisations.

Two plays concerned with women's rights are:

- George and Sheila – based on a community play from the Blacksands Community concerns the roles of men and women in Melanesian society (video funded by Dfid 1994)
- Doreen – concerning family planning and teenage pregnancy.

Wan Smolbag Theatre produced a video 'Three Short Films' ("Long Saed Blong Sam Raet Blong Ol Man Mo Woman") on the issues of Electoral Rights, Reproductive Health Rights and Domestic Violence. This video together with its guide became the basis for further work that WSB is doing on these issues.

A radio documentary series of 14 episodes went to air in 2001 to raise awareness on various laws of the Vanuatu Constitution. This included an episode on the rights of women.

Between September to November 2001 Wan Smolbag implemented a project Accountability and Governance in Vanuatu funded by UNDP to increase the knowledge and capacity of the people of Vanuatu to access their rights on three areas of good governance: domestic violence, reproductive health rights and electoral rights.

Wan Smolbag Theatre conducted an initial workshop to train facilitators on the material to be covered, and then conducted ten workshops of 2-3 days duration, reaching 81 women and 175 men.

4 workshops were conducted in Pt Vila – one for policemen, one for women from church groups, one for youth, and one for 40 Efate chiefs. 6 workshops were conducted in the Outer Islands; one each in Tanna, Ambae, Pentecost, Edi, North Ambrym and Unmet. Workshop participants included chiefs, pastors, women's leaders, health workers and youth.

The following is an extract from Wan Smolbag's Activity Report on the Workshop for Efate Chiefs in Port Vila:

"The first part of the workshop went through the fundamental rights in the constitution. The chiefs spoke about how the right to freedom of expression allowed women to wear trousers which went against Ni Vanuatu culture and the bible says men and women must not wear the same clothes. One chief obviously felt differently about this and said that he didn't want to disagree with his fellow chiefs but that modes of dress had changed over the decades and maybe in the next millennium women would wear trousers and men would wear skirts.

"The chiefs then watched the domestic violence film and discussed the issues. Over two thirds of the forty chiefs said a man should never ever beat his wife. When they were attacked by the usual question, 'what would you do if your wife committed adultery?' They said that beating her won't help the situation and maybe she's doing it because you are beating her!

"One of the chiefs got up and said, ' We have come here to improve ourselves and we should go back to our communities and tell them not to beat their wives. Accepting wife beating ends in women being killed.'

They were very interested in the new rules of court and wanted to be able to ring in from North Efate to the magistrates when there was a case of violence in the family. They were a bit upset to hear that they wouldn't be able to access the system by phone. "

**Wan Smolbag summed up the outer island workshops in this way:**

*"Many people on the islands believe it is right to beat your wife and have many worries about rights issues, even after seeing the videos. They also said in the evaluations that the most important things they learnt in the workshop was that people had rights and they often said the videos about wife beating and reproductive health were the most important ones."*

"The workshops give people a chance to hear differing opinions from the ones they hear everyday and to express themselves, something they do not often have a chance to do.

"Most of the groups wanted more workshops on human rights issues and this shows an openness to ideas and discussion, without which no change can take place."

**Summary prepared from Wan Smolbag Theatre report to UNDP, December 2001**

## ANNEX 13

### **BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN, SAMOA *Tetee atu sasa ma le upu malos* “HOLD BACK YOUR HANDS AND HARSH WORDS”**

***“When I get home tonight and we have our prayers tonight, I am going to sit down and talk to my husband and my children. I will say, at our seminar today we talked about hitting our children. Then I will share what we talked about. I will say. This is very important. I have decided I am going to try not to hit this week. This is going to be hard. You will have to help me. Even if the other women are hitting their children I am going to try not to, and not to use bad words to you.” (project participant quote at the end of a days training, Fairbairn-Dunlop, 1999).***

The hitting of children (sometimes to extreme levels) is a major issue in every Pacific country and, it is one that sits at the very heart of family, community and national development. (Peggy Fairbairn Dunlop, *Tetee Atu, To Hit or Not To Hit, -is there room for a third space? National Council of Women, Samoa, unpublished paper, 2000*)

Samoa represents an extremely challenging situation in terms of child protection. Some of the most serious cases of excessive discipline involving physical and emotional harm to children were reported to the team during the feasibility study/project identification study in Samoa. Youth suicide, related to chastisement, rejection or parents overwhelming imposition of vocational directions has also been noted.

Among many people in Samoa, there was resignation, even despair about changing this ‘normal’ situation. On the other hand the study team found in Samoa the strongest, most affirmative and innovative NGO initiatives to protect children and prevent abuse. (Cox, *Elizabeth, Innovations in Child Protection, Study, 1999*)

This is an initiative endorsed by the Samoan National Council of Women. It was conceived by Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop as a small program to work with and through mothers to encourage them to analyse their disciplining behaviours including the common and serious problem of excessive and severe beating and verbal berating of children. The program began in 1998.

**The National Council of Women (NCW) decision to undertake this programme is a landmark one because this is a highly sensitive issue-and one which is firmly grounded in ideas of power and status; appropriate roles; child rearing practices; human rights and justice and public and private responsibility. In this programme, women are very much the agents of change, identifying a need, and working to find solutions.**

The national campaign to reduce the amount of physical violence against children has three aims, developed by the women:

- To reduce the amount of hitting of children
- To stop all hitting across the head
- To reduce the use of bad words to children (negative words, swearing demeaning words) because in their view bad words were as damaging if not more damaging to children than hitting.

## The Project Strategy and Implementation

**The program involves national conferences of women to create awareness followed by piloting a participatory action research with village women. Women agree to keep daily reports of the number of times, reasons why and form and severity of discipline that they apply to their children. They also report on whether they took time and made the effort to praise and encourage their children during that week. The women involved meet on a weekly basis to share and discuss their reports. They talk about anger management and think about alternatives to physical punishment and verbal berating. They also talk about the importance of establishing better communication with their children.**

**The program is under way in ten villages and has brought about startling results. Women want to change. They are unsure of the suitability ‘European’ ways of disciplining children (denial of privileges, sending children to ‘their room’, giving them extra work: *children don’t have their own rooms or privileges and they already do a lot of work!*) in the Samoan village context. One of the strategies they are adopting is the method developed in PNG’s Campaign against domestic violence: When angry, make a conscious effort to ‘Stop Easy’ walk away and cool off.**

**The women have recently enlisted the support of their families; asking their spouse and their children to help them to stop hitting children. Together they now discussing issues of ‘good parenting’ and the need to encourage their children to take more responsibility for their own behaviour and decisions.**

The women who have made a commitment to change have discussed together what else they might do. They came up with the idea of each mother involved and committed taking the time to go out and recruit another mother to the collective effort of mothers to change!

**The women are developing the next steps of the program. They are designing the research.**

## Initial Outcomes

Initial results from the first group had interesting outcomes. A significant number of carers were grandmothers, raising their grandchildren. The median number of children each respondent was responsible for was eight. Global research suggest adopted children are a group most vulnerable to neglect. (Fairbairn-Dunlop:1999)

The first finding of this project was that not all women hit their children. 43% of the women had hit their children that week. Nor was hitting a daily occurrence. One older mother spoke

very movingly about how her child had been blinded in one eye as a result of her hitting. That had been a turning point for her. Generally speaking hitting appeared to be a response to what mothers perceived to be poor or inappropriate social behaviour, such as not obeying, or showing lack of respect.

When asked their views, 94% of the women said they believed in smacking. Smacking was described as an act of love, and a duty.

### **The Future**

*The Tetee Atu sasa ma le upu malosi* program is an initiative fully endorsed by the Samoan National Council of Women, which has a large network and outreach throughout Samoa. The program is becoming very popular very quickly. It is low-cost, replicable and sustainable.

The Tetee Atu programme and the data provides a valuable starting point for dialogue about parent-child relations, school parent relations and how Pacific Island parents can give children the best chances in life.

While “no-hitting” may not be the answer for Samoan parents today it is a goal to be worked towards. It may be necessary to create third spaces for Pacific Islander students today. (Fairbairn-Dunlop,1999)

The Tetee Atu training is now working with preschool teachers, in-service teacher training, pastors wives and church women’s committees.

#### *Sources:*

- Tetee Atu: To Hit or Not to Hit – is there room for a third space? Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, 1999
- Notes to FWCC on AusAID Prefeasibility Study on Child Abuse and Child Protection in Pacific Island Communities, Elizabeth Cox, 1999
- Personal communication, Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, June 2002.



## **ANNEX 14**

### **SAMOA SCAN**

#### **International Conventions**

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child** was signed by Samoa on 30 September 1990, and came into force on 29 December 1994. The initial report to the Committee on CRC is overdue.

In 1999 action on CRC was undertaken through a situation analysis, translation of materials, formation of a steering committee comprising representatives of government departments, and provision of information to the public through radio, TV etc. The Ministry for Women is the focal point for CRC. A national symposium for young people 11-18 years was held in 1999 to discuss key points of the Convention.

**CEDAW** was ratified in October 1992. No reports have been made to date.

A CEDAW Partnership Committee (Government plus NGO representatives) has been formed. A report to the CEDAW Committee is being finalised (May 2002; funding provided by UNIFEM). The Secretary of Women's Affairs expects the national report to be submitted to CEDAW this year. The process of preparing the report has involved identification of gaps and areas for further action (resources permitting) expected to be included in Government report to Committee. Note: two earlier drafts had been prepared, the last being in 1997 (funded by NZODA) but did not progress through government processes. (1991 census statistics are the most recent.)

#### **Governmental Policy Level**

Since mid 1999 the Ministry of Women's Affairs has been working on a National Policy for Women 2000-2004. A Task Force has undertaken a review of the Ministry including its mandate and a report has been prepared for Cabinet. It is expected that the review will lead to an increased focus on its role in policy development, identification of discriminatory practices and capacity building.

#### **The Law and Legal System**

The Samoan legal system is derived from the Constitution, New Zealand statutes applied to Western Samoa and Western Samoan ordinances made prior to 1962, and the rules of English common law and equity developed in English and New Zealand courts. Samoan custom and usage applies in relation to the holding of a *matai* title and customary land and to the rules of village government.

The laws relevant to the area of domestic and sexual violence are found in the Crimes Ordinance 1961 (based on the original NZ legislation that has not been amended since its adoption in 1961). Sexual crimes are found in sections 46 to 54 Part IV of the Ordinance. Physical assault is covered under sections 76, 79 and 80 of the Ordinance.

According to current law:

- rape means forcible sexual intercourse (must include penetration) without the consent of the woman;
  - assault means the unlawful and unwanted physical touching of the body by another person.
- Indecency and indecent assault means the unlawful touching of a female's private parts in an indecent manner, other than sexual intercourse (but includes oral intercourse).
- incest means sexual intercourse between family members including fathers, brothers, stepfathers and stepbrothers.
  - the age of the victim influences the punishment: indecent assault of a woman over the age of 16 carries a lesser penalty than that against a girl under 12 years.

There is provision for citing domestic violence as a ground for divorce at s71d of the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Ordinance 1961. The law provides divorce as a remedy or a principle response to domestic or sexual violence within marriage or in the home. Marital rape is not covered by the current legislation.

A victim of sexual assault must give evidence in open court and the law requires that the victims' experience must be corroborated by an independent source either through an eye witness or medical evidence before a conviction can be obtained. (Source: Mapusanga o Aiga, 1996, Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Women in Western Samoa, pp8-9).

A Bill to establish a Law Reform Commission has been passed by Parliament but is yet to be established. The Attorney-General would welcome a formal request from Samoan NGOs for review of the laws concerning VAWG, to be able to give it a push in the list of priorities for legislative reform.

### **Police**

There is the main police station in Apia, a police substation in Savaii and several police posts.

There are few women police officers (2 police officers and three in criminal investigation in Upolu in 1993). (Ministry of Women's Affairs, Western Samoa ,1993, A Statistical Profile on Women and Men in Western Samoa, p39). A female police inspector had been active in dealing with cases of domestic violence and sexual offences within the police force, but was compulsorily retired several years ago.

The tables below suggest that the number of cases of violence against women and girls reported to the police reflect proximity to the police. (The island of Savaii has around 27% of the population of Samoa (1991 statistics), compared to 21% of the population in Apia urban area, 25% in North West Upolu, and 25% in the rest of Upolu.)

### **Reported Crimes Against Women by Type of Offence and Place of Crime 1990-1995:**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
Total Crime	491	358	297	397	404	384
<b>Total Sexual Violence</b>	49	54	41	57	45	51
Apia Urban Area	21	20	9	14	13	15
North West Upolu	19	22	21	30	13	21
Rest of Upolu	8	12	9	10	18	15
Savaii	1	0	2	3	1	0
<b>Total Physical Violence</b>	342	304	256	322	359	333
Apia Urban Area	161	131	154	149	162	127
North West Upolu	121	119	77	102	133	137
Rest of Upolu	60	52	23	64	57	66
Savaii	0	2	2	7	7	3

Source: Department of Police and Prisons, in Government of Samoa/ United Nations (1998), Samoa A Situation Analysis of Human Development, p106

As indicated by the following two tables, there is a significant difference between the crimes reported to police and the charges that are laid at the Supreme Court. Reasons for the differences may include: low priority attached to investigation by the police, pressure on women and girls to withdraw cases by perpetrators or their families (due to shame and stigma), reconciliation of the parties in the case of family violence; decisions made by the public prosecutor's office on cases where the police completed investigations, possibly relating to a low priority or assessment of the difficulty of securing a conviction.

**Reported crime against women by type of offence 1990-1995:**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Total Crime</b>	491	358	297	379	404	384
<b>Total Sexual Crime</b>	49	54	41	57	45	51
Rape	18	24	18	19	9	7
Attempted Rape	2	3	0	5	5	10
Incest	0	3	5	5	4	3
Intercourse with a girl under 12 years	1	2	0	4	2	2
Indecency with a girl under 12	6	5	5	9	9	5
Intercourse/indecency with girl 12-16 years	9	13	7	7	9	11
Indecent assault women over 16	13	4	6	8	7	13
<b>Total physical violence</b>	342	304	256	322	359	333
Common assault	192	156	100	130	216	176
Wife bashing	63	74	90	97	64	58
Grievous bodily harm	1	0	2	3	1	6
Actual bodily harm	13	20	9	9	12	19

Source: Department of Police and Prisons, included in MoA 1996, p 44

**Number of charges laid at Supreme Court by type of offence 1990-1995 :**

<b>Crimes</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Total Crimes</b>	27	19	66	44	31	36
<b>Total Sexual Violence</b>	22	18	58	41	30	36
Rape	13	7	20	15	6	8
Attempted Rape	13	7	20	15	6	8
Incest	1	-	5	3	3	3
Intercourse with girl under 12 years	-	-	3	1	5	2
Indecency with girl under 12 years	1	2	7	4	7	10
Intercourse/indecency with girl 12-16 years	5	7	19	11	8	10
Indecency assault women over 16	2	1	2	1	-	-
<b>Total Physical Violence</b>	5	1	8	3	1	-
Common assault	3	-	4	2	1	-
Grievous bodily harm	1	1	1	1	-	-
Actual bodily harm	1	-	3	-	-	-

\*note reported crimes for 1991 are incomplete due to unavailability of records with the Department of Justice. Actual number of convictions for end of year 1995 available in the records of 1996.

Source: Department of Justice, included in MoA 1996, p45

Except for one offence in 2000, all (reported and convicted) sexual offences since 1997 have been committed against women and girls. Over 63% of victims were children.

**Sexual violence convictions for child victims (under 18) 1997 to 2000:**

Offense type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Rape	-	2	2	2
Attempt to commit rape	-	1	-	-
Incest	-	-	1	1
Sexual intercourse by a man with girl living in his family	-	1	-	2
Sexual intercourse with a girl under 12	-	-	-	-
Sexual intercourse with a girl between 12 and 16	4	12	10	11
Indecency with a girl under 12	1	3	4	6
Indecency with a girl between 12 and 16	-	2	5	3
Indecent assault on women or girl over 16	-	2	-	-
Sexual intercourse with idiot or imbecile woman or girl	-	-	-	-
Indecent act	-	-	-	-
Indecency between males	-	-	-	1
Total	5	23	22	29

Source: Mapusaga o Aiga unpublished research data derived from Criminal Records Office (Police) 2000,

Quoted in Pacific Children's Program, Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices, Samoa Country Report, prepared for IDSS BY Frances Soon Schuster, USP Alafua, 2002

**Action Research**

The first research undertaken on VAW in Samoa led to the issue taken up by the YWCA , which sent information to the UN in 1987 (Noumea Simi, Department of Foreign Affairs).

**Mapusaga o Aiga, 1996, Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Women in Western Samoa:** This research was carried out in four villages and 257 women interviewed. 28% said that they had experienced violence: 78% domestic violence, 11% sexual violence and 11% indecent violence. In almost all cases the perpetrators were known to the women who experienced violence. In the case of domestic violence 96% were husbands of the victims; 4% were male partners of the victims. 58% of women surveyed were aware of violence against women in their village.

National research was undertaken through **SPC/UNFPA/Ministry of Women Women's Health and Safety Project** in 1999/2000. Note: a report has not yet been printed (SPC waiting on formal agreement by Samoan Government) and findings are not yet publicly available. There is clearly some sensitivity about the results by the Government, and it does not appear that any actions or use of the findings in new or existing programs has been undertaken as yet.

The research was undertaken as part of a WHO Multisite study, with the standard questionnaire modified and interviews with men included. It comprised a qualitative study comprising interviews with service providers and others, and focus group discussions with groups of women and men, and a questionnaire-based survey of a representative sample of Samoan women and men.

The study defined domestic abuse as “ a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviours, including physical, sexual and psychological attacks used by adults or adolescents against their current or former intimate partners.” Abusive behaviours encompass physical abuse, sexual abuse (coerced sex through threats or physical force, forced unwanted sexual acts, forcing sex in front of others and forcing sex with others) and mental abuse.

The survey of 1646 women aged 15-49 found that:

- 46% had experienced some form of partner abuse – of which 38% physical abuse, 19% emotional abuse, 20% sexual abuse.
- The most common forms of physical abuse were: slapping and throwing objects (experienced by 35%), punching (18%), forced intercourse (17%), insults (13.6%), kicked, dragged or beaten (11%), coerced intercourse (11%), intimidation (10%), belittling/humiliation (10%), threats (3%), degrading sex (3%).

More than half of women who had experienced partner abuse had never told anyone about the abuse they experienced, and almost half had never sought help from anyone. Only a small percentage of physically abused women had ever sought help from police, legal system, courts or community organisations. Women who lived with the partners family were more likely to be abused than those who lived with their own family.

More than 70% of respondents who had ever had a partner felt that they could not refuse to have sex when they did not wish to. More than 40% felt they could not refuse when their partner was drunk and 24% felt they could not refuse when they themselves were unwell. Around 20% of respondents believed it was reasonable for their partner to physically abuse them if they disobeyed him or if he suspected them of being unfaithful, and around 60% thought physical abuse would be justified if they were unfaithful.

62% of women had been physically abused by someone other than a partner, including parents and teachers and 10% had been forced to have sex when they did not wish to, most by a boyfriend. Less than 2% had been touched or otherwise interfered with sexually.

Note: the findings from women were not consistent with the views of the men in relation to the % of women experiencing violence and men's attitudes to abuse (eg when sexual compliance is obligatory).

The survey of 664 men aged 15-49 interviewed in November 1999 found:

- 2% had experienced emotional and physical abuse; 45% had experienced emotional abuse; 3% had experienced sexual abuse; 2% had experienced physical abuse.
- 12% of ever married men had abused their wives both emotionally and physically; 45% abused their wives emotionally; 18% physically abused their wives; no one admitted to sexually abusing their wives.

The most common forms of physical abuse (69 men) of their wives involved: slapped or hit with objects (47), hit with fist (22), kicked, pulled and beat (6), used a knife or gun and other objects (5), choked and tied the neck (2). Of those who abused their wives, 32% aged 20-29, 42% aged between 30-39, 26% aged between 40-49.

About 74% of abusive husbands beat their wives because of answering back or disobedience. 26% gave other reasons such as wives refusing to have sex, not caring for children, being disrespectful to husband's parents, suspecting wife of having an affair, man was drunk, and lack of money. 98% of men agreed that a good woman obeys her husband; 57% of men believed that domestic violence was a private matter between husband and wives, while 43% said people outside the family had the right to intervene. Both urban (88%) and rural (91%) men believed that women should not refuse to have sex with their husbands because they did not want to become pregnant. 50% of men suggested women should be obedient to protect themselves from physical abuse (Source: Samoa Workshop Notes, undated)

**In progress: Mapusaga o Aiga:** In 2001 MoA commenced a research project collecting police and court records as a basis for examining what happens to women victims of violence in the justice system in Samoa. The initial work was undertaken by a volunteer lawyer placed with MoA; a proposal was then put to UNIFEM in late 2001 for funding to undertake the remaining stages of the

research and complete a report. Due to MoA organisational difficulties, the funding formalities were not completed and the research has come to a halt. MoA is still interested in obtaining UNIFEM assistance.

### **Programs and Services Focused on VAW**

**Mapusaga o Aiga** is the only organisations currently focused on violence in families. It was established by a group of women (lawyers and professional women in Apia) who were concerned about the number of media reports and cases of sex offenders coming to court in 1993. They formed Mapusaga o Aiga ('Family Haven') in 1993, and developed a plan to secure funding to undertake research on the issues prior to developing programs to respond to the situation.

The MoA research report was launched in 1996 at a three day national symposium. This was important as it was a very sensitive issue and considered culturally inappropriate to discuss it; it also led to support from the NGO community for MoA's work.

MoA deals with a range of family problems including domestic violence and sexual assault. It provides counselling, referrals for women and men and raises community awareness through community workshops and media campaigns for special events eg IWD, other international days and national occasions. Based in Apia, its outreach work and community workshops are still aiming to cover all villages in the country.

MoA has recently produced some pie charts (years covered not clear) which show:

- 84% of clients were female; 16% male
- 10% of clients are aged 10-19 years, 39% aged 20-29; 34% 30-39; 12% 40-49.

There have been organisational problems experienced in the last 6 months, with changes in the Board and large turnover of staff including Coordinator. Governance/management roles and responsibilities, areas of focus in terms of directions and programs, and accountability and organisational systems for donor funding appear to be some of the current issues.

### **Other needs/focus on VAW**

The need and feasibility of establishing and running emergency accommodation/refuge has been an issue debated for a number of years amongst those working in related areas: one family has apparently has providing shelter in a voluntary capacity.

It appears that a number of women who have previously been involved in MoA are interested in developing services and programs in a number of directions that are not central to MoA's current priorities and strategies. The development of a new NGO focusing on VAWG with aims and focus complementary to MoA's – emergency intervention and support, documentation and community based activities – may be forthcoming.

### **Issues**

\* Domestic violence is regarded as an issue to be dealt with in the extended family group (*aiga*), as to deal with it outside is to bring shame or dishonour on the family. Police officers are reluctant to deal with the crime, as they too see it as a family matter (MoA 1996:13). While there have been some changes in awareness of the problem since MoA's research in 1996, there still appears to be considerable resistance to even recognising the issue (including among some women and senior civil servants).

\* Discussion about "rights" - women or children's - is regarded as sensitive and in conflict with Samoan social structures and culture.

\* NGOs lack a tradition of advocacy, and government appears to be unlikely to be responsive to NGO activism and activities undertaken elsewhere in the region. However, there are opportunities for putting issues on the governmental agenda and working with those who are interested in addressing VAW that are not being utilised by NGOs at present (eg request for government review of law relating to VAWG by NGOs to the Attorney-General).

\* NGOs have been invited to be part of Government Working Groups/Partnerships eg CEDAW Partnership. This may involve significant time for NGOs, without tangible results for their efforts. While there are apparently a large number of NGOs and community based organisations (covered by SUNGO), the NGO sector seems to be small, based on volunteerism and with relatively little resourcing. Two NGOs (including MoA) receive NZODA funding which includes some organisational costs. Other funding available appears to be small and activities based.

\* The numbers of university qualified counsellors and social workers in Samoa is increasing, however there is felt a need to develop the capacity of appropriately trained and skilled counsellors at all levels for addressing VAW with a rights based and empowerment focus.

\* Efforts have been focused largely on providing information and awareness raising – one off sessions without processes that facilitate reflection and are more likely to lead to behaviour change. The Tetee Atu program of the NCW is an exception in that it involves training of trainers/facilitators, and a structured workshop program over two to three weeks. The two to three sessions are usually a week apart, allowing participants time to observe, reflect and record their own behaviour and responses, and perhaps talk about the issues in their family, before coming back to another workshop. The program is designed to facilitate people taking action to change their behaviour and responses, and to build key strategic supports for those changes (at community level, with church/NCW women's groups, kindergarten teachers, etc).

\* Community outreach to villages in all areas of Samoa has been an objective for many organisations, with apparently little focus on evaluation of effectiveness, lessons learned and documentation of what works and what can be improved. Without follow up and evaluation of activities, it is not known what the impact (if any) of awareness raising activities are, including any unintended effects given the sensitivity of the issues.

\* Customary institutions and the churches reach every family, but have not been activated to end VAW and girls. To date there appears to be a lack of focus on efforts to involve the community structures including churches and build on mechanisms in culture that can provide support.

Traditional groupings - the *Matai* (chiefs), the *tamaitai* (daughters of the matai and unmarried women), the *aumaga* (wives of the matai), the *faletua ma tausima* (wives of the matai), the *aumaga* (sons of the matai and untitled men) and *tamaiti* (children) - continue to operate as the basic system for the definition of roles, relationships and division of labour in villages. Each village has a health committee which may be affiliated with national women's organizations or national church organisations. Religion plays a key role in society, with many church youth groups. Family and neighbours may be primary sources of intervention, but often choose not to intervene as domestic violence is seen as normal and a private matter.

\* The impact of changing social and economic conditions, and changes in family and household structures are considered to be significant. Urban households comprise both extended family members and non family members (shared accommodation) which was mentioned as a factor in child sexual abuse. A number of children are working as street vendors in the informal economy in Apia at night, which is seen as leaving them more vulnerable to sexual and other violence (see F. Soon Schuster, Qualitative Study for Pacific Children's Program).

\* Economic independence/dependency of women and domestic violence appears not to have been examined in depth. However references to research conducted in 1995 suggests that rural more traditional lifestyles may provide greater protection for women. Surveys conducted by Cribb in 1995

indicate that 80% of women interviewed in Papa village (a rural village in Savaii) are non acceptors of domestic violence. Those interviewed suggested that traditional methods of escaping domestic violence - seeking shelter with pastor and his family, or with other members of the extended family - can be helpful.

According to Cribb, in the urban setting women have become more accepting of violence because of their dependency on men as the principal cash income earners. In Vaivase-tai (Apia urban area) 44% of women interviewed were acceptors of DV compared to 20% of their rural counterparts in Papa. It may be because these women function under dual layers of social control due to their dependence on the male members of the household as sole cash earners, and also as decision-makers and controllers of the household resources under the *matai* system. It is hypothesised that this situation compels women to accept violence at the hands of their partners as a necessary condition to their economic survival, rendering solutions proposed by the rural women less effective in the town setting. (Source: MoA 1996, pp 14-15)



## ANNEX 15

### VANUATU SCAN

#### International Conventions

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child** was ratified in 1992. The Council of Ministers approved the establishment of an official national coordinating body, the National Children's Committee (NCC) composed of government, NGO, churches, chiefs and youth. Vanuatu's Report was presented in 1999.

**CEDAW** was ratified in 1995 but a report has not yet been prepared. The Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) is seeking donor support (UNIFEM, NZODA, AusAID) to obtain technical assistance from someone involved in Fiji's reporting on CEDAW, plus funds to undertake national consultations and the preparation of the report. DoWA's aim is to report in 2003.

#### Governmental Policy Level

Achievements to Date	Current Situation	Gaps, Needs and Issues
The Comprehensive Reform Program's Gender Benchmarks paper (1997) identified: VAW and Discriminatory Laws; Custom, Religion and Culture and need for policy and legislative framework.	Dept of Women's Affairs (DoWA) is working to put in place policy but it is a slow process. A discussion paper on VAW is in preparation : when finalised it will go through the policy approval process, first to the Development Committee of Officials and then to Council of Ministers to become policy. Two other policy issue areas have the process of policy approval underway.	DoWA has small staff and limited budget (basically salaries and operational costs).  Scrutiny of policy documents and approach by senior civil servants and government reflect sensitivity to action on issues seen to concerned with women's rights or in conflict with <i>kastom</i> .  Attitudes of civil servants in other Ministries and Government reflect wider social and cultural views.

#### The Law and Legal System

Achievements to Date	Current Situation	Gaps, Needs and Issues
Family Protection Order Bill prepared; wide consultation process undertaken and lobbying by NGOs.	Bill has passed through the Council of Ministers but not yet put to parliament; timeline yet to be set by new government. Uncertainty whether it will	Low priority given to Bill by successive governments over last three years. Tension between <i>kastom</i> and constitutional rights. Chiefs attempting to

	be priority of new Government (elected May 2002).	enshrine their powers in legislation which may restrict women's rights. Need for accurate information on the Bill and lobbying of Members of Parliament to support the Bill; underlying attitudes of MPs are yet to be addressed.
	Police and courts are not present in many islands. Even where there are police stations, the police may refer domestic violence to chiefs rather than register cases. Magistrates often give low sentences despite provision in the law for higher sentences. Public Solicitor refers family law and violence cases to chiefs for <i>kastom</i> resolution.	Attitudes that regard violence against women and girls as normal or private matters influence police and justice system.  Need for greater understanding among all involved in the justice system of domestic violence and the roles of the justice system in having both a deterrence and punishment function in relation to violence against women and girls.
Domestic Violence Court Orders introduced in December 2001 as new rules in the Magistrates Courts and provides some security for survivors of domestic violence (including fines or imprisonment for breaches) with cases to be heard within 14 days.	VWC monitoring implementation issues.	Short period of validity (14 days) means additional work in requesting renewal of orders; only applies to Vila and Luganville where there are resident magistrates. (FPO legislation includes provision for areas where no resident magistrates).

**Police:** It is very common for the Police to refer cases of domestic violence to local Chiefs for resolution, particularly in the Outer Islands. VWC Counsellors accompany clients to the Police to ensure that appropriate action on violence is taken.

The Uniform Investigation Branch in Port Vila handles domestic violence and family maintenance cases. As indicated by the tables below, in Port Vila a large percentage of the reported DV and assault cases remain incomplete (investigation not completed by the police); others are withdrawn because the husband and wife reconcile or follow a custom settlement.

**Total Reports Violence Against Women - Uniform Investigation Branch Port Vila 2001**

	Number of offences	Complete	Cancelled (withdrawn)	Incomplete
Int. assault	125	22	12	91
Threats	49	11	5	33
Abusive words	30	11	1	18
Damage	33	12	1	21
Trespass	19	2	0	17
Family Maintenance	16	6	1	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>189</b>

**Total Reports Violence Against Women - Uniform Investigation Branch Port Vila January - April 2002**

	Number of offences	Complete	Cancelled (withdrawn)	Incomplete
Int. assault	28	8	0	20
Threats	5	1	0	4
Abusive words	6	1	1	4
Damage	4	1	0	3
Trespass	8	2	0	6
Family Maintenance	5	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>

Source: S/Sgt Toara Thomas, Uniform Investigation Branch, May 2002

A Sexual Offences Unit in Pt Vila is staffed by two women police officers. Sgt Maryline George received training on sexual offences from an Australian Federal Policewoman in 1991, and counselling training from VWC. She accompanies VWC on community education (eg visits to two villages for Vanuatu Women's Day in May 2002) to speak about sexual offences.

Sexual offences reported to the police are increasing, as indicated by the statistics for 1999 to April 2002. The conviction rate is low; the majority of cases never make it to court, either because the investigation is not completed by the police, or because they are withdrawn by the complainant or by the public prosecutor.

**Sexual Offences Year 2000 Port Vila**

	Offences reported	Police Investig'n Completed	Convicted	Withdrawn by public prosecutor	Withdrawn by complainant	Incomplete
Rape	17	9	5	2	2	6
USI	6	3		3		3
Incest	1	1	1	0	0	0
Sexual intercourse with girl under care and protection	2	1	1	0	0	1
Indecent assault	13	10	5	1	1	2
Indecent assault in public place	3	2	0	0	0	1
Indecent matter	2	1	1	0	0	0

Homosexual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	11	5	3	2	1	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>

**Sexual Offences Year 2001 Port Vila:**

	Number of offences reported	Police Investigation Completed	Convicted	Withdrawn by public prosecutor	Withdrawn by complainant	Incomplete
Rape	10	7	1	3	0	3
USI	10	6	2	3	2	2
Incest	2	0	2	0	0	2
Sexual Intercourse with girl under care and protection	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault	19	12	5	0	3	4
Indecent act in public place	4	4	1	0	0	0
Indecent matter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homosexual	1	1	1	0	0	0
Others	21	16	0	2	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>

**Sexual Offences January to April 2002 Port Vila**

	No. of offences reported	Police Investigation Completed	Convicted	Withdrawn by public prosecutor	Withdrawn by complainant	Incomplete
Rape	7	6	0	0	0	0
USI	1	1	1	0	0	0
Incest	2	1	0	0	0	1
Sexual Intercourse with girl under care and protection	1	1	1	0	0	0
Indecent assault	16	16	1	0	0	0
Indecent act in public place	1	1	0	0	0	0
Indecent matter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homosexual	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	5	3	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: Sgt Maryline George, Sexual Abuse Section, Vila 10 May 2002

## Programs and Services focused on VAW

**Vanuatu Women's Centre** (established 1982) provides counselling and support services to women and children who are physically, sexually and psychologically abused. The Centre is based in Port Vila and provides mobile counselling and community education in Port Vila area and in the Outer Islands. The Samna Counselling Centre has been established in Luganville and funding is being sought by VWC (unsuccessfully to date) for the establishment of a counselling centre on Tanna. A Safe House Program operates in Pt Vila (formerly used to be a house, now guest houses are used for emergency accommodation for women and children).

VWC undertakes community education and awareness activities with community groups, and training for other organisations and collaborates with other organisations for special events and campaigns. VWC also works to raise women's awareness of their rights, to ensure current laws are enforced and gender sensitive legislation is put in place. In the next 5 year phase of Centre's work (funded by AusAID July 2002-2007) a lawyer is to be based at VWC. Staff have had para legal training (through RRRT) and the Centre provides assistance in meeting court fees and legal fees for women. An in-house lawyer will enable further expansion of services offered.

VWC has developed a focus on building community capacity in the Outer Islands, and training and capacity development of 15 committees against VAW (CAVAWs) in islands will be central to VWC's work in its next phase. VWC is aiming to extend men's involvement in community based work, including through working with male volunteers of the Vanuatu Family Health Association. VWC has been undertaking community education on protective behaviours for children and raise awareness about child sexual abuse. VWC has worked hard to increase cooperation and support from chiefs, and accompanies women to *kastom* courts. Some changes have been achieved: in some cases women (and VWC staff) have been invited to speak during the *kastom* court proceedings, which in some places was not allowed in the past.

### ***Vanuatu Women's Centre Summary of Client Support July 1999 – June 2000:***

Type of Support	Domestic Violence	Child Maintenance	Others	<i>Rape</i>	Child Abuse	Total
Centrebased counselling	372	223	138	18	7	758
Phone counselling	86	20	38	0	1	145
Information	21	21	52	0	1	95
Mobile Counselling	17	30	15	3	0	65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,063</b>

### ***Vanuatu Women's Centre: Summary of Client Support July 2000 – June 2001:***

<i>Type of Support</i>	Domestic Violence	Child Maintenance	Others	Rape	Child Abuse	Total
Centrebased counselling	360	264	198	21	8	851
Phone counselling	187	121	273	7	0	588
Information	39	51	126	4	3	223
Mobile counselling	34	66	58	3	3	164
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,826</b>

### ***Vanuatu Women's Centre: Summary of Client Support July 2001 - March 2002***

Type of Support	Domestic Violence	Child Maintenance	Other	Rape	Child Abuse	Total
Centre based counselling	388	220	71	1	25	705
Phone counselling	141	90	107	0	0	338

Information	104	57	115	0	36	312
Mobile counselling	5	21	17	0	2	45
TOTAL	638	388	310	1	66	1,400

**Other NGOs** undertaking work concerned in part with VAW and human rights include: Won Smolbag (theatre performances and community workshops on VAW, Reproductive Health and good governance/human rights), Vanuatu Family Health Association, Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centres Associations (VRDTCA) and the Young People's Project.

Reproductive health programs are targetting women, men and young people promoting shared responsibility and nonviolence in family relations. Pacific Children's Program (3 year AusAID funded) aims to increase family, community and government responsibility for child protection in Vanuatu, through awareness raising and IEC campaigns; the Government information focal point is the Department of Economic and Social Development, with the PCP Vanuatu Program Manager located in Save the Children Australia Vanuatu Field Office.

### Issues

\* Community education and legal literacy are ongoing needs.

\* Custom, culture and religion are often used as justifications for the secondary status of women. Brideprice is widespread and reinforces the belief that women are owned by men. Many believe that women subjected to violence should remain with their husbands, with a focus on promoting reconciliation of a couple.

\* The relationship of kastom to national law is not clear, and for many people *kastom* has more immediacy and relevance to their lives than national law. This often works to the advantage of perpetrators of violence, with the family of a perpetrator arranging to deal with the issue through a *kastom* ceremony rather than have matter dealt with through judicial system. Fines (money, pigs, mats) may be paid to the male relatives of the victim, but the victim herself is subjected to shame and stigma, and often does not receive support from her family or community.

\* In many parts of Vanuatu there are chiefs kastom courts in the islands and no judicial or police services. Chiefs may be unable or unwilling to deal with cases of VAW or have a biased attitude. Often the chiefs approach is reconciliation of the couple even in situations of ongoing violence.

\* In the last year there have been five deaths of women from domestic violence, two on the same day. In one case the couple had been to a kastom court and reconciled by the chief.

\* VWC has been developing innovative and important work at community level and with community leaders, which is being further supported and developed in the next phase of VWC's work. This work is relevant to other Pacific nations (eg Samoa) where work on domestic violence does not yet appear to be undertaken from a community development basis and longer term perspective. In Vanuatu other organisations such as VFPA are undertaking important work with community based volunteers, and VWC and VFPA will be working together to share resources in community work in the Outer Islands.

\* The diversity of cultures, languages and geography of Vanuatu, combined with transport difficulties emphasise the need for community based work on VAW, especially given few police and magistrates courts in the Outer Islands.

\* Police themselves may be perpetrators of domestic violence and reluctant to intervene or act themselves to protect women and girls experiencing violence. VWC have clients coming to Vila because there is no police or courts on their island. Some have found the chief unable to deal with their case or have a biased attitude, and/or the offender is threatening her.

\* Theatre (Wan Smolbag) is being used effectively to provide information and raise issues for discussion among leaders, communities and youth. A workshop with chiefs in Pt Vila in late 2001 which addressed domestic violence is a good example of influencing attitudes and behaviour of a key group of leaders regarding VAW.

\* Data collection, compilation and sharing by various government organisations could be improved, to assist in government policy and priority setting. However this is unlikely to be successful if those responsible for compiling or overseeing data collection do not themselves understand the issues or have a gender and rights based perspective on domestic violence. The data provided by the Ministry of Health is not useful as a basis for analysis; the register recently re-established at the Hospital is a much better source of information in gaining an overview of VAW and girls and a source of information for advocacy and lobbying. The information available at the Department of Statistics was out of date and appeared to have one table mislabelled.

\* Government health workers and services could benefit from an improved understanding of the role they could play with referrals and treatment of women and girls who are victims of violence.

\* Specialised counselling skills and support for girls who have experienced sexual abuse is an area of need. VWC and Samna counselling staff have had some training, and other organisations also need assistance in developing knowledge and skills in this area.

\* Sexual abuse (rape, incest or sexual abuse) in families may be covered up for fear of shame or gossip. Sexual abuse of female children from a previous relationship or female children with intellectual disabilities is common (D. Hughes, 2002, Qualitative Study for Pacific Children's Program, p 34).

\* While the CRC defines a child is under 18 years old, in Vanuatu girls are considered to be adults often much sooner. Physical development rather than age or maturity may be taken as more indicative of adult status. A girl may be considered a woman after her first period and therefore available for sexual activity. Girls may start having sex aged 12-14 and boys from 15-16. (Age of consent is 16 for males and 18 for males). Teenage pregnancies are considered to be common, with some teenage girls turned out of their home and lacking support. When it is known they are no longer virgins, girls can be "hunted" for sexual activity.

\* 42% of the population is under 15 years (1999 Census). Opportunities for schooling and employment are limited for young people. Young people "kilim taem" (kill time) because of underemployment or unemployment, especially in urban squatter settlements. Research by the Young People's Project found that few young people practice safe sex.

\*Magistrates often give lenient sentences to those convicted of domestic violence and sexual assault. The law provides for more severe sentences than are given routinely, suggesting that magistrates would benefit from training that addresses their attitudes and beliefs concerning VAW as well as legal issues.

\*Police and the justice system appear to be poorly resourced, thus making it easier to set aside cases concerned with domestic violence or sexual assault and rape of women.

\* One judge has referred five young male offenders to VWC for counselling in the hope that a change of attitude is possible through counselling. No other appropriate services are available. VWC staff have not been trained in this area and VWC does not see this as fitting within its organisational focus and philosophy. Proper juvenile offender programs and facilities are needed.

## ANNEX 16

### FIJI SCAN

#### International Conventions

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child** was ratified in 1993; that year the Government established the Coordination Committee on Children (CCC) composed of government ministries and NGOs, which considers ways in which Fiji can incorporate provisions of the Convention into its laws and practices. Fiji presented its CRC Implementation Report in 1995.

**CEDAW** was ratified in August 1995, with two reservations concerning customary rights and citizenship. The reservations were removed in April 1999 (due to 1997 Constitutional changes). A draft report was completed in September 1998 and a national women's consultation held in August 1999 to discuss the draft report prior to its finalisation. The first Government report (and a NGO shadow report prepared by a coalition including FWRM, FWCC, Ecumenical Centre for Research Education and Advocacy) was presented to the CEDAW Committee in January 2002. A draft plan is in preparation by the Government (through the Task Forces for the WPA , see below) to address the CEDAW Committee concerns.

#### Governmental Policy Level

The Women's Plan of Action 1999-2008 (Ministry of Women and Culture) was adopted by the Government in October 1998. It outlines plans of action for five areas: mainstreaming women and gender concerns, women and the law, microenterprise development, balancing gender in decision-making, and violence against women and children. These plans are broad brush plans outlining strategic objectives, directions for action and government, donors and other organisations responsible. A taskforce was established for each action plan area.

The Task Force on Violence Against Women has the role and function of:

- identifying priority actions to be implemented and organisations responsible;
- develop mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of priority actions;
- provide support for implementation of the WPA
- advise the Inter Ministerial Committee on Women (IMC) on additional critical issues impacting on the implementation of the WPA.

It is working on a domestic violence agenda for appropriate legislation and remedies. The Chair of the Taskforce, the Permanent Secretary for Justice, expects that some results will be achieved in 2002 but no details provided. (Two NGO representatives are on the Task Force: FWCC and an organisation representing people with disabilities.)

Note: The Government provides some funding to the FWCC and contributed funds to FWCC's 2001 national research.

#### The Law and the Legal System

<b>Achievements to Date</b>	<b>Current Situation</b>	<b>Gaps, Needs and Issues</b>
1997 Constitution (s38(i)) broadened the definition of fundamental rights by		Suggestions that Constitution should be amended to restrict definition of fundamental rights again, raising concerns about commitment to



including birth, gender, sexual orientation, primary language, economic status, age or disability		universal human rights.
1997 Juvenile Amendment Act prohibiting child pornography and increasing penalties for child sexual offences.		
Family Law Bill 2000	Parliamentary Joint Sector Select Committee on Social Services and Justice Law and Order hearing submissions on the Bill has extended the duration for submissions from May to September 2002.	Continuing opposition and misinformation about the Bill from churches and other powerful social sectors. Some organisations lobbying for the Bill are doing so only with reference to children and families (no mention of women!). Bill passing into law would involve establishment of new family division of courts
Sexual offences legislation drafted and commissioner appointed in 1998-99 to discuss and debate issues arising out of the draft	No timeframe set for continuing the process to pass into law the sexual offences legislation.  In March 2002 the Office of the Attorney-General established a taskforce to look into sexual offences in response to the increasing number of incest and other sex crimes. It is to advise government on the proposed legislation to reform the penal code sections on sexual offences (including whether the sentences currently provided in the penal code are appropriate for crimes of a sexual nature).	FWCC has identified need for specialised training for counsellors of children who have been sexually abused; No child psychologists in Fiji or in the region; Increased support needed for girls who have been sexually abused (often by family member or neighbour); generally the offender is out on bail pending trial, and able to harass and intimidate victim.
Fiji Police adopted "No Drop" policy (all reported cases of DV to be investigated) September 1995 (in response to many years of lobbying by FWCC and FWRM)	Strengthening of implementation of policy (legislation, penalties imposed on police officers for breaching policy) advocated by FWCC.	Policy not being implemented fully in all parts of Fiji; tends to be restricted only to relationships within marriage.
Chief Magistrate announced in 1995 that as a matter of policy he	Magistrates have jurisdiction to hear rape cases; accused have power of election to choose if	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender sensitivity training for members of the judiciary</li> </ul>

would encourage magistrates to have rape cases tried in the High Court and to give harsher sentences if such cases heard in their own courts.	case is heard in magistrates court or high court (magistrates courts cannot give a sentence of more than five years). Inconsistencies in sentences passed for crimes against the person (rape, sexual assault and child molestation) which are often less severe than crimes against property.	addressing rape myths and covering impact of violence on victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customary law and customs (bulubulu) influence sentences of some magistrates</li> <li>• Development of sentencing guidelines are areas of need.</li> </ul>
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**Police:** A Sexual Offences Unit was established in the Central and Southern Divisions and the Western and Northern Divisions by the Police Department in May 1995. The Unit handles cases of sexual assault. The police has a protocol with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Department of Social Welfare on the handling of cases of child abuse.

#### **National Sexual Offences Cases from 1997-2001**

Offences	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Rape and Attempted Rape	103	91	88	95	76	453
Indecent Assault	109	107	104	90	118	528
Defilement Girl Under 13 years	6	3	13	14	6	42
Defilement of Girl B/w 13 and 16 years	66	74	59	52	50	301

Source: Provided at meeting by Cpl Vakaturagani, Nabua Police Station

#### **Summary Incest Cases Reported and Investigated by Division from 1997 to Feb 2002:**

Division	Reported	Convicted	Pending Enquiry	Pending Court
Southern	16	4	7	5
Eastern	3	2	0	1
Western	7	5	1	1
Northern	2	0	0	2
Total	28	11	8	9

Source: Provided at meeting by Cpl Vakaturagani, Nabua Police Station

Note: FWCC has recommended the establishment of women's complaints centres in police stations (staffed by women police) to handle DV, child abuse, sexual assault

#### **Action Research**

- Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, 2001, National research on the prevalence of DV and sexual assault: A Research Project of the FWCC funded by the UNIFEM Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, Ministry for Women and the Asia Foundation. The Report includes a comprehensive set of recommendations for action, by FWCC and various agencies of Government.
- FWCC would like to build on this research by undertaking further research on sexual violence and the impact of violence on women and children.

- The Ministry for National Planning commissioned research on the economic costs of domestic violence in November 1999; Bureau of Statistics commenced primary research planning in 2000 prior to coup (no action since?)

### **Programs and Services Focused On VAW**

**Fiji Women's Crisis Centre** is located in Suva, plus Crisis Centres in Labassa, Ba and Lautoka. Between 1994-2001 FWCC had 11,004 new cases and 1991-2001 11,716 cases (not including telephone counselling). Ba, Labassa and Lautoka WCCs had nearly 3,300 new cases between 1999-2001. (See breakdown on new client cases by category (DV, others, rape, child abuse) from 1994-1996 in Women's Plan of Action Vol 2, p89; also analysis of cases seen by FWCC and cases reported to police in Research Report).

Since 1999 FWCC has undertaken strengthening and extension of mobile counselling education into rural areas and developed a stronger presence in north and west of Fiji (as recommended by findings of National Research).

FWCC notes a trend in increased demand for its services and increased reporting to police/increasing levels of sexual assault and rape cases (including incest). FWCC has identified the need for child psychologists, specialised training for counsellors in counselling child victims of incest and sexual abuse, and increased support services for girls who have been sexually abused.

FWCC provides training and advice for other community organisations, NGOs, government, and through PWNAAVW to organisations working to end VAW in other countries in the Pacific region. FWCC has a well developed community education program including awareness campaigns, targetting young men (preventative approach) and children (protective behaviours). Media is used extensively.

**Other NGOs:** A number of NGOs are undertaking work related in part to VAW, including Reproductive Health and child protection information (Pacific Children's Program). Women's Action for Change has undertaken innovative work with men in prison (no longer doing this in prisons due to difficulties with access and resourcing), with sexual minorities and ex- prisoners on self-esteem and rights issues (including VAW). Theatre is used to raise awareness of human rights issues including women's rights.

### **Issues**

\* There is a continuing high level of tolerance of DV amongst both women and men, and general acceptance that DV is justified under certain circumstances and particular reasons (FWCC Research, 2001, p72).

\* There has been extensive media coverage almost daily and general concern expressed about the increase in the number of cases of incest reported to police in first few months of 2002.

Note: there is still an attitude of blaming women for the sexual abuse perpetrated by men on their own children; some blame women for not being at home enough, being a good mother and wife, or satisfying their husbands sexually (for example, the comments by the Assistant Minister for Women reported in the press in May 2002).

\* Churches, religious leaders and other influential organisations have not to date played an active role in eradicating violence in the home: there is still an attitude that marriage must be preserved at all costs, and that men as heads of the household and family are beyond reproach.

- \* Customary practices (apology) are being used by perpetrators and their families to avoid or minimise punishment in cases of violence against women and girls through the justice system.
- \* Political will to take forward the law reform process by introducing bills to parliament appears to be stalled.
- \* There is an underlying denial of human rights to many groups in society, with discrimination and violence in society being directed to women, children, sexual minorities, those of non indigenous ethnic backgrounds, those with disabilities. There is a need to focus on promoting "human rights and respect for all."
- \* The process of reporting to CEDAW has appeared to have a beneficial effect on the civil service continuing to follow through on putting into place action plans, time bound targets and resources for governmental action to address discrimination against women and girls.
- \* Support services for women and girls experiencing violence are still inadequate (police, social welfare, emergency housing, specialised counselling for child victims of incest and sexual abuse).
- \* The Judiciary and sentencing by magistrates reflect "myths" and leniency towards offenders (eg apology used to reduce sentences, man the sole breadwinner therefore cannot serve a good purpose to imprison him for length of time).
- \* A number of organisations with apparent "wide reach/membership" appear interested in taking up work on VAW, but do not appear to have a rights based approach or woman-centred approach. There is considerable potential for damage or diluting/weakening messages about VAW if they do not receive capacity building/strengthening. These organisations also appear inclined to "one off" training activities without a follow-up or program development approach and may not be committed to addressing these issues for the long term.