

ACTIONS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
– A REGIONAL SCAN OF THE PACIFIC
2002

A Study for UNIFEM

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. UNIFEM works in partnership with UN organizations, governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) and networks to promote gender equality. It links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas, by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.

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FOREWORD

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 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 private life”.

The Declaration further provides that violence against women is to be understood as encompassing but not limited to physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community, and perpetrated or condoned by the State.

UNIFEM has worked with Governments, non-government organizations, and development partners to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the Pacific Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). UNIFEM is deeply committed to strengthening partnerships to bring about changes that lead to gender equality and the elimination of violence against women.

More than a year ago, 189 world leaders committed to gender equality and the empowerment of women through the Millennium Development Goals. They agreed to halve extreme poverty, reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters and achieve equal access of girls to all levels of education, all by 2015. They also committed the world to halt, and begin to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDs by 2015.

Gender equality is paramount to the fulfillment of each of these goals. In order to halve extreme poverty and reduce maternal mortality, we must first specifically address the issue of feminised poverty and resources must be allocated to ensure women’s survival, options and opportunities. To achieve parity in school enrollment between girls and boys, we must stop girls from being pulled out of school to care for their family members who are sick and old. *In order for violence to cease being a daily reality for women in our region and across the globe, we must work towards more equal power relations between women and men.* We must promote equitable, effective and appropriate resource allocation to improve women’s lives if we are serious about achieving the millennium development goals.

This study is part of a global assessment by UNIFEM on actions to end violence against women. The study cannot purport to be a comprehensive study of the diverse Pacific, but it revealed that violence against women and girls is a very large and extensive problem.

UNIFEM acknowledges the consultants’ work undertaken to make this assessment possible and produce this study, Avega Bishop and Sue Finucane; the contribution of the members of the Pacific Women’s Network Against Violence Against Women, and Government representatives and the national women machineries in the region.

We trust that the study have produced useful information for Government representatives, policy makers, non Government organizations, women’s human rights advocates and others involved in working towards eliminating violence against women.

Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua
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August 2003

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
Beijing + 5	Five Year Review of the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women
Beijing PFA	Platform for Action adopted by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women
CATOC	Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime
CATOC-OP	Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime - Optional Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
CAVAW	Committees Against Violence Against Women, established by VWC in Vanuatu
CCM	Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriage
CCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
CCPR-OPI	Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDAW-OP	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CNMW	Convention on the Nationality of Married Women
CPRMW	Convention on Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRC-OP-AC	the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
CRC-OP-SC	the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
CSTPEP	Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
DEVAW	Declaration to End Violence Against Women
DfiD	Development Fund for International Development (UK)
DV	Domestic Violence
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Pornography & Trafficking
EHFV	Eastern Highlands Family Voice
ENBSEK	East New Britain Social Action Committee (PNG)
ESCAVAW	East Sepik Committee Against Violence Against Women
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FWCC	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women
FWRM	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
GoF	Government of Fiji
GOPNG	Government of PNG

GoS	Government of Samoa
GoV	Government of Vanuatu
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRAF	Individual and Community Rights Advocacy Forum (PNG)
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IMR	Institute of Medical Research (PNG)
IWD	International Women's Day
IWDA	International Women's Development Agency
KAPB	Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Beliefs
LNWDA	Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency
LRC	Law Reform Commission (PNG)
MOA	Mapusaga O Aiga
MoH	Ministry of Health
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NCC	National Council of Churches
NCW	National Council of Women
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NZODA	New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PWNAVAW	Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women
PWRB	Pacific Women's Resource Bureau
RRRT	Regional Rights Resources Training Program
SCAS	Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TOR	Terms of Reference
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHDR	United Nations Human Development Report
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for Women

VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VWC	Vanuatu Women's Centre
WAC	Women's Action for Change
WALC	Women and Law Committee, PNG
WHO	World Health Organisation
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

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