



# FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

PROGRAMS, CHALLENGES  
AND MILESTONES

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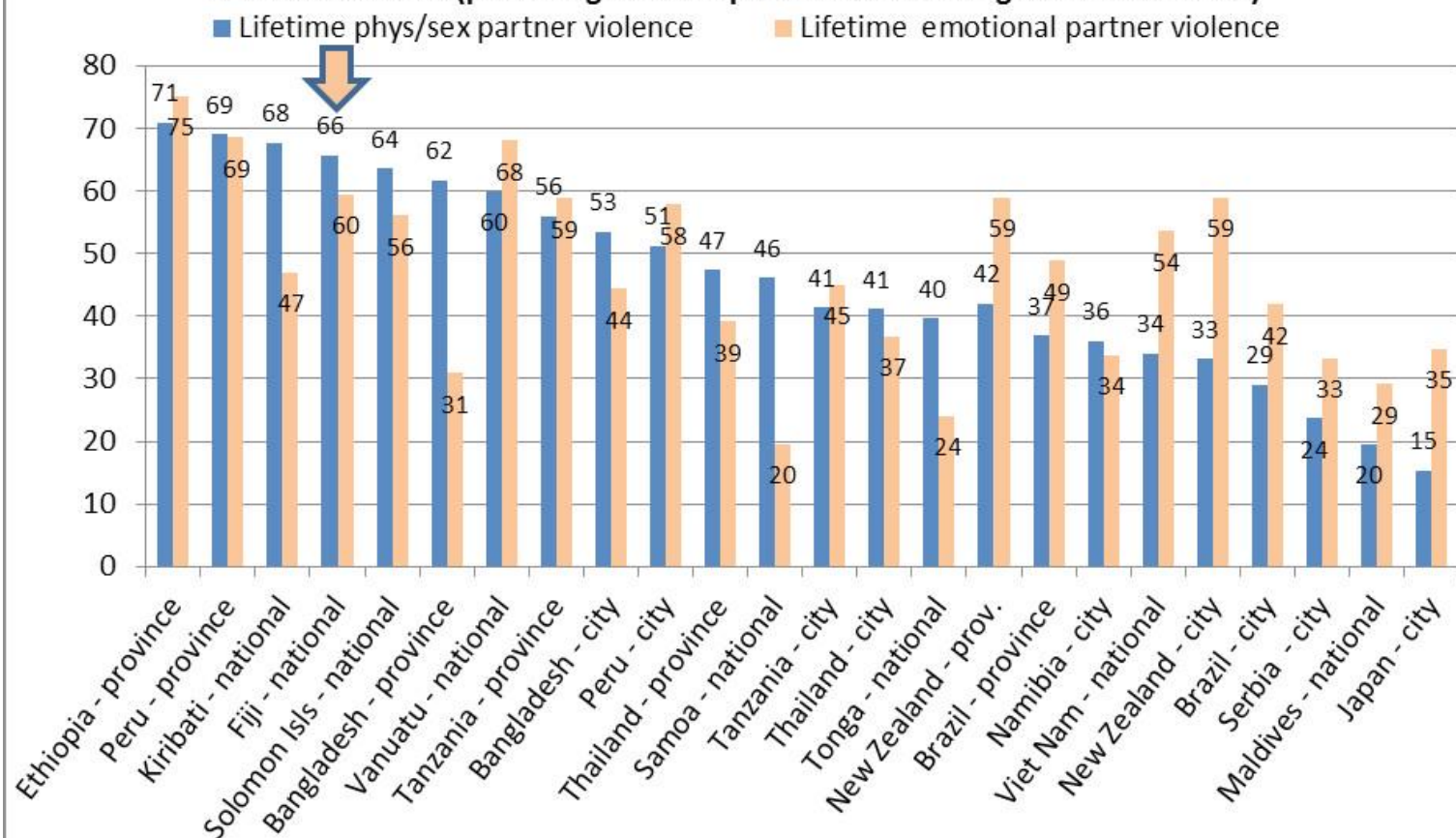
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# VAW IN FIJI AND THE PACIFIC

# RATES OF VAW IN THE PACIFIC

- ◉ Rates of Violence Against Women in the Pacific is amongst the highest in the world.
- ◉ Research on intimate partner violence conducted using WHO methodology reveal the following rates of intimate partner violence in the Pacific:
  - ◉ Kiribati - 68%
  - ◉ Fiji- 66%
  - ◉ Solomon Islands - 64%
  - ◉ Vanuatu - 60%
  - ◉ Samoa - 46%
  - ◉ Tonga - 40%
- ◉ Research is underway in the Marshall Islands and also to be carried out in PNG.

**Figure 12.2: Prevalence of lifetime physical or sexual and emotional partner violence around the world (percentage of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 or 18-49)**



# OUR PROGRAMS

## FWCC & PACIFIC NETWORK PARTNER PROGRAMS

- ◉ Counselling/advocacy
- ◉ Male Advocacy for Women's Human Rights
- ◉ Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women
- ◉ Regional Training Program
- ◉ Regional Training Institute (FLARE)
- ◉ Police Training and Training of Other Agencies
- ◉ Committees Against Violence Against Women (Vanuatu)
- ◉ One Stop Shop (Tonga)
- ◉ Advocacy and lobbying
- ◉ All programs based on women/girls experience of violence

# MALE ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

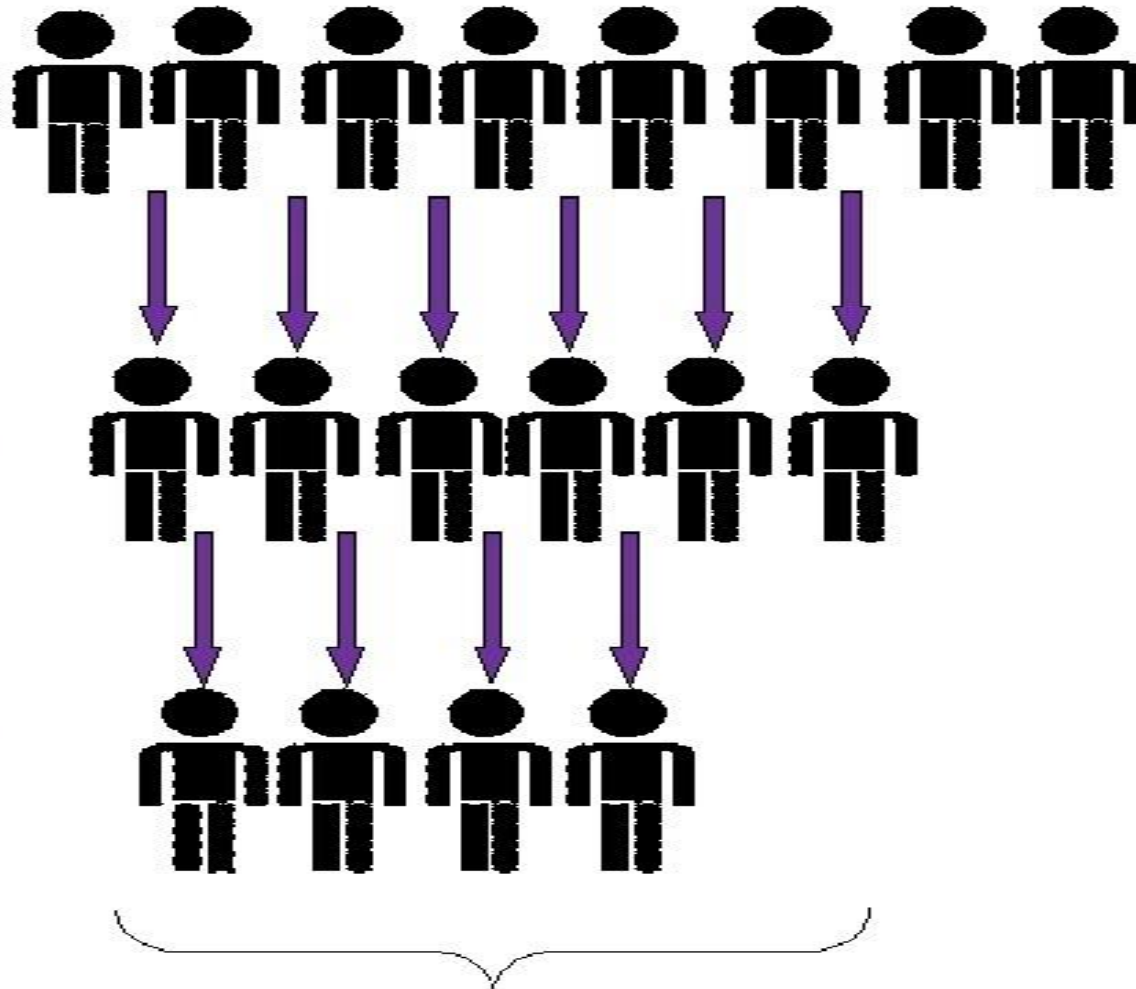
- ◉ An innovative programme developed by FWCC targeted at men in Fiji and the Pacific.
- ◉ Male Advocates are chosen from among RTP participants and other men in leadership positions in the community
- ◉ It challenges men to identify their own unacceptable behaviours; change those behaviours and then influence other men in the community to change their behaviours
- ◉ Male Advocates receive 4 stages of training - firstly by women rights activists, and a final training session by a Masculinities Expert.
- ◉ Male advocates are monitored by the Women's Rights movement and are accountable to the Movement.

# MALE ADVOCACY SELECTION PROCESS

**1** To become a Male Advocate for Women's Human Rights, men are identified either through RTP or by FWCC and other heads of women's org around the Pacific Region.

**2** When chosen men will undergo a series of training on Male Advocacy using the Male Advocacy Manual.

**3** After each stage of the Male Advocacy Training, successful candidates will continue on with the next stage of the training.



*FWCC & other heads of women's rights org continue to monitor these men as they assume their roles as male advocates.*



# MALE ADVOCACY TRAINING



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- ◉ FWCC is also the Founder and Secretariat for the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (Pacific Women's Network).
- ◉ Established in 1992
- ◉ Comprised of over 28 regional organisations from 13 Pacific Island Countries that share a common goal of eliminating gender-based violence (GBV) in their communities
- ◉ Includes organisations from Tonga, Vanuatu, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and the Cook Islands.

# REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

- RTP is a 4-week focused training, carried out twice yearly by FWCC on:
  - awareness on gender equality and VAW issues such as domestic violence, rape, child abuse, and sexual harassment,
  - human rights and VAW-related laws in the Pacific, international treaties, access to justice, LGBT rights, utilizing the media as an advocacy tool for the elimination of VAW, and
  - response and prevention strategies.
  - counselling support
  - lobbying and advocacy,

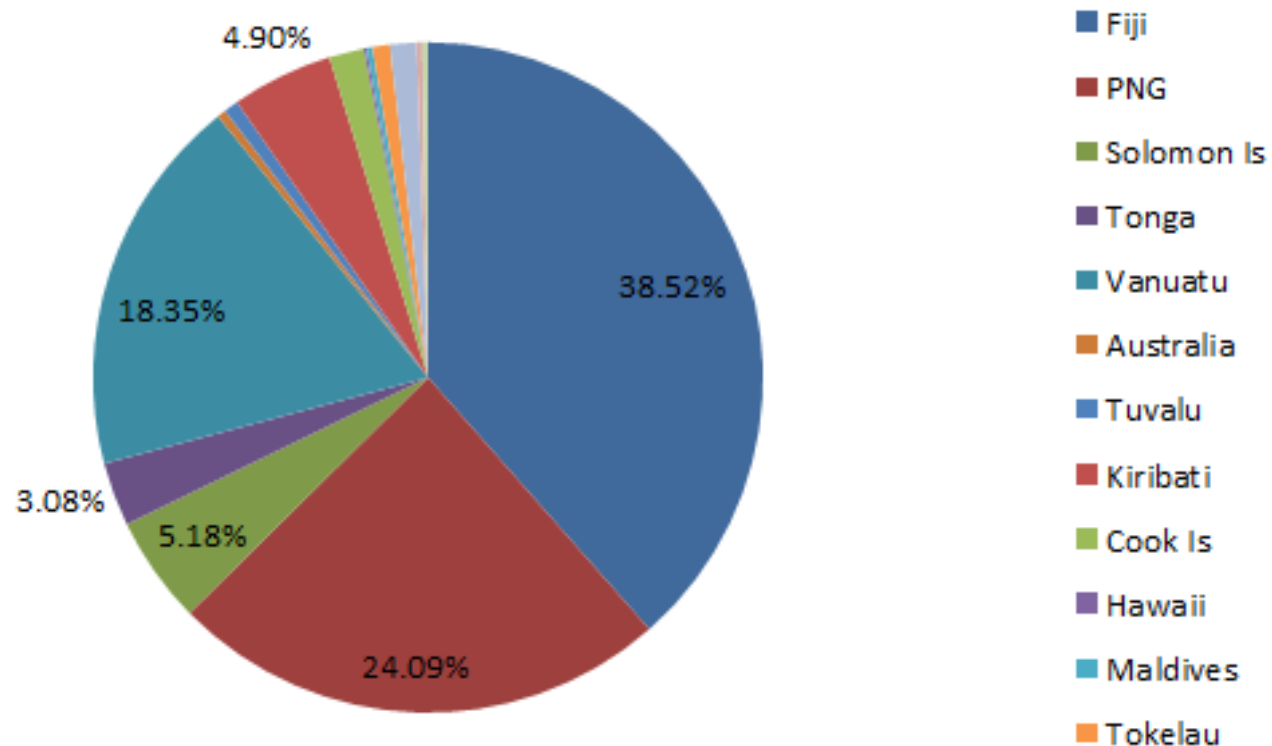
# REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

- ◉ Started in 1995
- ◉ Participants from 15 countries in the Pacific, including: Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu, Australia, Cook Islands, Maldives, Tokelau, Nauru, FSM, Tuvalu, Australia and America.
- ◉ Over 1000 graduates since 1995, with approximately 75% female and 25% male graduates.



# REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

- ◉ Participants have included police officers, counsellors, community educators, staff of crisis centres, health workers, teachers, lawyers, court officials and other civil servants as well as disabilities, LGBTQ communities.
- ◉ Sponsored by donor agencies



PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY

# RTP 2<sup>ND</sup> INTAKE, OCT 2013





# REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

- ◉ FWCC is in the process of establishing a Regional Training Institute, to be known as FLARE (Feminist Learning Advocacy and Research for Empowerment)
- ◉ FLARE will tailor training programs for various sectors, including development of modules for police training, health officials and those in the education sector
- ◉ FLARE's advisory committee consists of women's rights activists from around the Pacific

# POLICE TRAINING

- ◉ FWCC in a joint initiative with the Fiji Police Force offers training on Gender, Human Rights, Violence against women issues (domestic violence, rape, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment) and VAW-related laws to members of the Fiji Police Force
- ◉ Objective is to improve relationship and cooperation between Police and NGOs who work in the area of ERAW
- ◉ Week-long training focuses on:
  - Understanding VAW
  - Gender and gender relations
  - Increasing skills on responding to female victims reporting GBV
  - Understanding criminal laws, the Domestic Violence Decree and other related laws
  - Human rights
  - Investigating crimes of violence against women & girls.
- ◉ Pilot program for AFP

# POLICE TRAINING



# VANUATU'S COMMITTEES AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (CAVAWS)

- ◉ Established by the Vanuatu Women's Centre (VWC), CAVAWS are a network of island-based committees against VAW.
- ◉ CAVAWs are composed of members of women's groups, traditional leaders, police officers and church leaders based in villages.
- ◉ CAVAWs undertake local community awareness activities and assist women and children living with violence in remote communities.

# TONGA'S 'ONE STOP SHOP'

- ◉ 'One-Stop Shop' crisis service is the first of its kind - offered by the Tonga Women's and Children's Crisis Centre
- ◉ The 'One-Stop Shop' provides victims of violence easier access to counselling and police and medical services under one roof.
- ◉ A Police officer and registered nurse are based at the Centre to assist clients
- ◉ Objective is to keep victims of violence from being re-victimized - statements can be taken at the centre, and basic medical assistance provided.

# OTHER FWCC PROGRAMS/SERVICES

- ◉ Our core service is Confidential and non-judgmental feminist counselling - focuses on empowering and strengthening women in areas of assertiveness, communication, relationships and self-esteem.
- ◉ Community Education - Conducted in 3 languages: English, itaukei, hindi. Focuses on gender awareness, human rights and VAW offences.
- ◉ Lobbying for law reform and for women's human rights.

# OTHER FWCC PROGRAMS/SERVICES

- ◉ Conducting surveys on the prevalence rate of violence in Fiji
- ◉ Acting as a 'clearing house' for information on VAW both locally and globally
- ◉ Documenting the experiences of survivors of violence
- ◉ Chair of NGO Coalition on Human Rights - coordinating network for NGOs engaged in different aspects of human rights education, advocacy and project work.
- ◉ Political activism



# BARRIERS/ CHALLENGES



# CHALLENGES

- ◉ Patriarchal culture- abuse of religion and culture
- ◉ No rights based approach
- ◉ Political/ethnic and tribal conflicts
- ◉ Militarisation
- ◉ Lack of access to health services, education
- ◉ Lack of gender sensitisation of service providers
- ◉ Overcrowded donor/development space
- ◉ Very few women in governance
- ◉ Poverty

## CHALLENGES

- ◉ Difficulties accessing justice system
- ◉ Archaic legislation on VAW in some Pacific countries
- ◉ Non-implementation of VAW legislation in other jurisdictions
- ◉ Frequent changes in judiciary - inconsistent application of laws
- ◉ Gender neutral legislation abused by men around gender-based violence

# MILESTONES/ ACHIEVEMENTS

# LEGISLATIVE/POLICY CHANGES

- ◉ Intensive lobbying by FWCC and FWRM led to the Family Law Act.
- ◉ Lobbying for Domestic Violence specific legislation - Domestic Violence Decree
- ◉ Creating awareness and public debate which led to changes to Law on corroboration and evidence of past sexual history, and expansion of definition of rape
- ◉ Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)
- ◉ Similar in Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa.

# WOMEN ASSISTED

- ◉ Since its inception, FWCC has counselled over 35,829 women in 78,585 counselling sessions.
- ◉ Children, transgender persons, women with disabilities and some men also seek counselling from us (1364 men have made enquiries since 2004 with FWCC)
- ◉ On average each year, we have 50 community education sessions. In 2013, over 20,000 women, men and children were reached during these CE sessions.

# WOMEN ASSISTED

- ◉ Now have 4 branches that offer services throughout Fiji
- ◉ We are in the process of establishing shelters for women and girls throughout Fiji - much needed service.

# PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

- ◉ Religious groups
- ◉ Traditional groups
- ◉ Police and other government entities
- ◉ Civil society organisations including Disability groups and LGBTQ

# RESEARCH SURVEY

- ◉ National Research Survey on Intimate Partner Violence “Somebody’s Life, Everybody’s Business” was released in December 2013
- ◉ Extremely important research - shows prevalence of violence in all socio-economic groups, ethnicities and across all age bands.



- ⦿ Putting All forms of violence against women, girls and children on everyone's agenda in the Pacific.