

Participating Pacific Members of Parliament UNiTE

Statement

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team "**Pacific Human Rights Consultation for Regional Members of Parliament**", was held in Brisbane on the 16th to 20th July 2012. The Pacific Consultation was funded by AusAID and supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with technical assistance from UN Women and the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions. Participating Members of Parliament of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu met to discuss work and strategies towards preventing and eliminating violence against women.

The participating Members of Parliament shared their Pacific experiences and were informed of innovations in law reform and social policy programming to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights as well as support cultures of peace and equality and the Pacific Plan.

Following discussions on violence against women, human rights and on the role of law and the administration of justice the participants agreed as follows-

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirming the obligations of State parties under core international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Aware that impunity for acts of violence against women, children and persons with disabilities negatively affects their full enjoyment of citizenship as well as the rule of law.

Stressing the importance of the empowerment of women and the affirmation of positive models of masculinity as tools to eliminate all forms of violence against women:

1. *Express* deep concern at the persistence of all forms of violence and crimes against women, children and persons with disabilities including domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons;
2. *Stress* that all forms of violence against women, children and persons with disabilities are obstacles to their enjoyment of human rights, fundamental freedoms and their advancement and empowerment.
3. *Recall* that while girls are more likely to be victims of sexual and domestic violence, boys are increasingly becoming victims to such violence;
4. *Stress* that violence against women, children and persons with disabilities bears direct relationship to wider societal violence;
5. *Acknowledge and Reaffirm* the progress made in the Pacific to strengthen laws and administration of justice to address effectively violence against women, children and persons with disabilities;
6. *Commend* the work of the women's movement, disabled persons organisations and other civil society organisations including faith-based organisations in addressing violence against women, children and persons with disabilities as a violation of human rights;
7. *Reaffirm* the commitment to strengthening a culture of peace and zero tolerance towards violence against women, children and persons with disabilities;
8. *Urge* governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, the media and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to accelerate their work and join forces in addressing violence against women, children and persons with disabilities;
9. *Call* for sustained responses that reinforce social and cultural attitudes consistent with human rights and

gender equality through prevention approaches in all sectors;

10. *Request* national authorities to produce, strengthen and disseminate age and sex disaggregated statistical records on the incidence and types of violence against women, children, and persons with disabilities;
11. *Agree* on the need for ongoing review and consistent reform to strengthen the substantive and procedural law to guarantee to women, children, and persons with disabilities their right to a life free of violence and fear;
12. *Further agree* on the need for strengthening of institutional structures, formal and traditional justice systems, and social service support in line with human rights principles and standards;
13. *Recommit* to reinforce collaboration among countries of the Pacific to work together and share relevant best practices to end violence against women, children and persons with disabilities;
14. *Commit* to solidarity and partnership with women, children and persons with disabilities of the Pacific in their struggle to overcome violence, inequity and injustice and call upon national Parliamentarians to join in this commitment;
15. *Urge* our governments, private sectors and development partners to contribute financial and other necessary resources.;
16. *Call* for an expansion in the availability of programs for perpetrators of gender-based violence to encourage positive models of masculinity characterized by behavioural and attitudinal change;
17. *Stress* the need for active youth participation in the campaign to act as agents of change amongst their peers and the wider community; and
18. *Urge* the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other international and regional development partners to support Pacific countries in the development and implementation of gender-responsive policies and programs to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, children and persons with disabilities.

Cook Islands

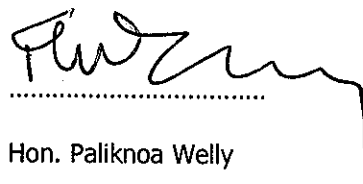


Hon. Nandi Glassie

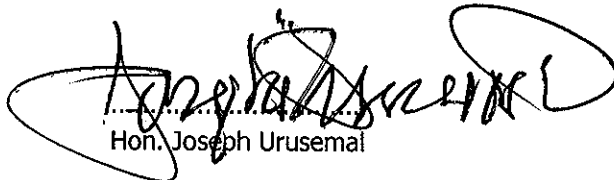


Hon. Tangata Vavia

Federated States of Micronesia



Hon. Paliknoa Welly



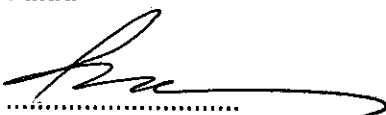
Hon. Joseph Urusemal

Kiribati



Hon. Martin Tofinga

Palau



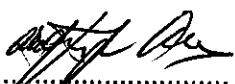
Hon. Regina Mesebeluu

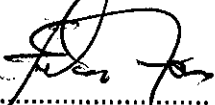
Papua New Guinea



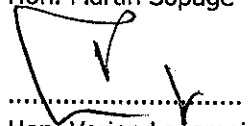
Hon. Dame Carol Kidu DBE

Solomon Islands

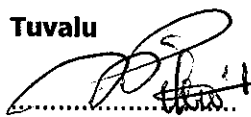

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Hon. Clay Forau Soalaoi


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Hon. Peter Tom

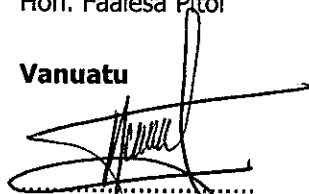

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Hon. Martin Sopage

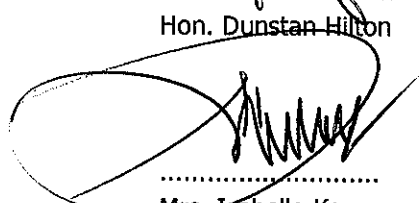

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Hon. Varian Lohamei

Tuvalu


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Hon. Faalesa Pitoi

Vanuatu


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Hon. Dunstan Hilton


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Mrs. Isabelle Kora

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