Established in 1994, the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre is funded by NZAID. Current funding resumed in July 2004 and will end in June 2005. The Labasa Women's Crisis Centre is located on the Northern side of Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island. It covers the 3 provinces of Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata in which the township of Labasa is located. The Centre is located in Bayly house, Siberia Road, Labasa and the project Officer is Sera Bogitini. The postal address and telephone contact of the Centre are PO Box 319, Labasa and (679) 8814 609. The working hours are 8.30am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

**History:** In 1991, after attending a Counsellor Training Workshop and awareness raising on violence against women, a small group of volunteers led by Bimla Singh (the Centre's senior counselor and community educator) of Labasa, started to work with individual victims and speaking to women's groups and schools. Other women became interested so that in May 1994, 28 women formed the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre following another workshop training with FWCC in Labasa. The volunteers used Bimla Singh's home and telephone as their contact to counsel women, accompany them to court, conduct fund-raising activities and give talks to community groups and schools. Today, the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre is run as a collective, with four full-time staff and volunteers.

**Collective Statement**

The Labasa Women's Crisis Centre is a branch of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. It 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. SEXUAL ASSAULT, CHILD ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT ARE VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN. The Labasa Women's Crisis Centre is dedicated to the belief that no one has the right to inflict violence on a woman or child under any circumstances! We must work together to create a society where women and children can live

without fear of violence.

**Services:**

Counselling and Support Services

- Free and confidential, non-judgmental crisis counselling for victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and sexual harassment.
- Legal advice
- Accompany or referrals of clients to court, police stations, hospitals and other agencies upon request.
- 24-hour telephone counselling on phone number 3313 300 (operated from Suva)
- Providing emotional support and options for clients to be able to make choices for themselves.

**Community Education and Public advocacy**

- Giving talks, running workshops and seminars (in collaboration with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre based in Suva) on the issues of Violence against women and Children.
- Lobbying for law reforms
- Lobbying locally for women's rights

**Information Services**

The Labasa Women's Crisis Centre opens up its library services to members of the public who are looking for information on Violence Against Women and Children and other related issues.

Documenting the experiences of women and children who are survivors of violence.

**Opening Hours**

Monday- Friday 8.30am -4pm

Please Support us where you can

Labasa Women’s Crisis Centre,
PO BOX 4029, Labasa.
Bayly House,
Siberia Road.
Phone/Fax: (679) 8814 609
Mon-Fri: 8.30am -4pm