SUVA (March 7, 2012)

A series of events organised by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, including marches to symbolically reclaim the night for women, will be held across Fiji to mark International Women’s Day on Thursday, March 8.

For the first time since the day was commemorated in Fiji, reclaim the night marches will also be held outside Suva, to realise the theme of ‘empowering rural women to end hunger and poverty’.

A march will take place through the streets of the capital beginning at 6pm, and for the first time similar processions will be held outside Suva – at Namaka and at Dratabu Village in Nadi.

Events will be held at all Fiji Women’s Crisis Centres across the country, including the launch of a progress report on violence against women in Melanesia in Suva.

Australia’s Global Ambassador for Women & Girls, Ms Penny Williams will launch the publication *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor – Progress made since the 2008 ODE Report* at the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre at 9am.

At midday, FWCC Deputy Coordinator Edwina Kotoisuva will speak to members of the Red Rock rugby club at Albert Park to raise awareness on the prevalence of violence against women and how sportspeople can help eliminate the problem.

In Dratabu Village in Nadi, more than 100 people are expected to participate in a candlelight procession through the village. Simultaneously, a more than two-kilometre long march will take place from Nataly’s shop in Namaka to Jetpoint, the so-called nightclub strip of Nadi, where the call will be for safe streets for women and children.

In Savusavu, the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre will join Roko Tui Cakaudrove Ro Aca Mataitini in hosting women market vendors and other participants to a half-day workshop and celebration at the Cakaudrove Provincial Council office.

Leading up to IWD, workshops were held in Tailevu (in conjunction with the Ministry of Women), and in Rakiraki and Labasa. The Ba, Rakiraki and Nadi Women's Crisis Centres will all be holding open days from 9am to 3pm.

A vigil is being held at Calcutta Street in Waiyavi, Lautoka on Wednesday night and a workshop will be conducted with the Sagayam Women's Wing in Nadi on Thursday.

This is the first time events to mark International Women's Day are being decentralised on such a scale throughout Fiji.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SHAMIMA ALI ON 9992875.