





# Beneath Paradise

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2016

THE MAGAZINE OF THE PACIFIC WOMEN'S NETWORK AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## SOLIDARITY STRUGGLE

24 years after Regional  
Network's founding,  
responding to VAW  
remains as urgent as ever

FWCC's 32nd anniversary was marked during the 7th Meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women in August 2016. Also on the same day, the West Papuan participants shared about the plight of their compatriots and their struggle for merdeka - freedom, the symbol of which the participants in this photo are demonstrating.



Gaining and losing



Shamima Ali

Welcome to another edition of Beneath Paradise, which features coverage from the Seventh Meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women held at the Warwick Resort in Sigatoka, Fiji in August 2016. This quadrennial meeting of the Regional Network is a time when we gather as advocates for women's human rights and examine the work we are doing to eliminate violence against women. Previously held every four years, the participants at the Seventh Meeting resolved to hold it every two years instead because of the sheer amount of work to be done.

The meeting gathered more than 60 participants from around the region who shared country updates, poured their hearts out and learnt from each other, as well as from practitioners from outside our region. For some it was a time for respite from the dreadfulness of the daily work in the area of eliminating violence against women and girls.

The outcomes document deliberated on and agreed to by the participants at the end of the marathon meeting focussed on 25 major points from services for survivors of VAWG and women and girls with disabilities, to perpetrator programmes and sorcery-related violence.

It was agreed that many advances have been made in the Pacific to bring the issue of violence against women and girls to the forefront of the national agenda since the founding of the Regional Network 24 years ago. However, it was also agreed that despite the progress so far there is still a long way to go before gender inequality is truly defeated.

This meeting was also significant for the participation of four West Papuan women, the first time the Melanesian territory claimed by Indonesia, attended since they joined as founding members of the Regional Network in 1992.

The heartfelt presentation by Rode Wanimbo on behalf of her West Papuan sisters drove home the realities of life for women there. While the indigenous population continue to suffer the ongoing repercussions of occupation and colonisation, the women also suffer a double whammy from domestic violence, rape and abuse.

West Papua is a sticky political issue for all Pacific countries but the world is now paying more attention to their plight and the suffering of women there both through state-backed violence and violence within homes and communities.

In this issue, we pay tribute to Kanak leader, freedom fighter and anti-nuclear activist Susanna Ounei who passed away in June. As Teresia Teaiwa points out in her tribute printed on page 10, Susanna was an uncompromising leader.

Finally, in September Fiji and the Pacific lost one of its true shining lights in Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi. His sudden death at the age of 59 has left a void in the human rights and philosophical jurisprudence of the Pacific. Ratu Joni had an abiding relationship with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and you can read about this on pages 4 and 5.

In solidarity.

**Beneath Paradise** is the quarterly magazine of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women, published by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre as the Network's secretariat. The FWCC has published a newsletter for the Network since its founding in 1992.

Published by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre with assistance from AusAID  
88 Gordon St, PO Box 12882, Suva, Fiji (679) 3313 300  
(679) 3313 650 fwcc@connect.com.fj ■ www.fijiwomen.com  
Printed by Quality Print Limited, Suva ■ ISSN: 2309-0510

Regional updates on EVAWG work

Participants from the 12 countries/territories represented at the 7th Meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women in August 2016, presented an overview of the work and progress in their countries over the past four years to end violence against women and girls. Here are summaries of some of the achievements and some challenges encountered in the period.

BOUGAINVILLE: Agnes Titus, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation

- Autonomous Bougainville Government developed and approved gender policy and action plan in 2013.
- Referral pathway for survivors of violence developed.
- Implementation of the Family Protection Act.
- Gender training for women and men in the community.
- Male advocacy for women's human rights training (with FWCC) and further work in the community.

COOK ISLANDS: Rebekah Buchanan, Punanga Tauturu Inc.

- Family Safety Survey.
- Review of Crimes Act.
- Submissions on the Family Law Bill, which is waiting to be passed.
- Working collaboratively with other NGOs – awareness training – in the outer islands.

POHNPEI, FSM: Marstella Jackson, women's human rights activist, lawyer

- No legislation at present related to VAW and most of the work responding to the issue is carried out by the state governments. Very little work on prevention and response to VAW is reactive.
- Not many NGOs specifically working to respond to VAW.
- Marital rape is not a crime; penalties are lenient for sexual offences and even more so when the victim and perpetrator are related.
- One achievement is the setting up of family centres, but while the physical structures are there the centres not operational yet.

KIRIBATI: Anne Kautu, Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs

- Specific ESGBV Project coordinating ESGBV programmes.
- Preparatory Assistance Project (PAP) which aims to build capacity to prepare service providers for implementation of the EVAWG policy within a one-year timeframe.
- "Te Rau n te Mweenga" Act (Family Peace Act) passed and implementation underway.
- Standard Operating Procedures for survivors of GBV.
- Improvements on health forms for GBV cases.

- Healthy Family Clinic for domestic violence survivors.
- Male involvement program.

NAURU

- The refugee processing centre on Nauru adds extra complexities and risks to responding to violence against women. Now there are two communities to respond to – the local Nauruans and the asylum seeker community.
- Local staff in processing centre often do not report issues of violence because they might lose their jobs.
- Child Protection and Welfare Act passed, while draft Family Protection Bill is being prepared.

NEW CALEDONIA: Rolande Trolue, Gender Adviser, Government of New Caledonia

- Gender equality strategic plan for the period 2014-2018.
- Gender training for public sector, including senior civil servants and cabinet ministers' personnel.
- Development of code of ethics and sexual harassment with executives of all mining companies.
- Work started on National Charter for Equality between women and men in New Caledonia.
- New law requiring perpetrator of violence to leave the home.
- Weak communication on VAW is being addressed.
- Working with rural women, young people and men.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Multi-sectoral approach to gender equality.
- Introduction in 2013 of a National Public Service GESI policy/program, a GESI help desk and a National Public Service GESI toolkit.
- Repeal of the Sorcery Act, which was a factor in the deaths of women and even children accused of sorcery.
- Passing of the Family Protection Act.
- Definition of incest extended out from just immediate family.
- Lukautim Pikinini Act (Child Protection Act) implemented but no regulation yet.
- Establishment of Family and Sexual Violence Units around the country.
- GESI integration in Police Constabulary policy and procedure manual.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Passing of Family Protection Act in 2014 and first stage implementation in 2016 after commencement.
- Child and Family Welfare Bill being considered.
- SAFENET MOU signed 2013 and review done in 2016. Orientation carried out in 2014 where SOPs agreed on and minimum standards set.
- CEDAW reporting in 2014 (Combined reports 1st, 2nd and 3rd).
- UPR review in 2016 – Working Group report at the 24th session.
- CCC has expanded its awareness raising program to high-risk communities (sexual abuse, rape is high).
- FSO awareness program expanded to the outer islands in the Western Province
- Training of traditional leaders and faith based leaders.

TONGA

- Family Protection Act 2013.
- One Stop Crisis Support Services.
- Review National Gender Development Policy.
- Increase public education and awareness programs
- CEDAW Motions
- Strong coalition women's group
- Work done on cyber crime issues affected women/young girls.
- Submission to Parliament to amend the Evidence Act to remove the rule of corroboration.

VANUATU

- Public awareness having an impact with mass protests against violence against women gaining support.
- Family Violence Policy 2015 and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on procedures in dealing with DV cases.
- Vanuatu Christian Council implements Gender Policy in 2014, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu carries out gender awareness.
- Increased media reporting on violence against women and children
- Family Protection Unit included in the Vanuatu Police Force structure so resources can be allocated.

The Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women members women's rights groups and agencies in Bougainville; Cook Islands; Fiji; Federated States of Micronesia; Marshall Islands; Kanaky; Kiribati; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu; Tonga; Samoa. Send your Network News and photos to fwcc@connect.com.fj



Regional meeting spotlights horror and hope in VAW work

Every four years, a gathering takes place in Fiji that is both depressing and inspiring. Depressing because the topic under discussion is violence against women; inspiring because despite all the horror stories, you cannot help but marvel at the women all across the Pacific who are doing the thankless task of raising awareness about and responding to the problem, even if they themselves are at risk of violence.

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) convened the 7th Meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (PWNAVAW) – the Regional Network – 13-19 August 2016 at Warwick Resort in Sigatoka.

Participants included women and men working in organisations and communities around the Pacific to eliminate violence against women as well as referral agencies such as the police, social welfare and medical services.

The 60 participants also included Male Advocates for Women's Human Rights from several countries. Represented at the meeting were Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, PNG and Bougainville, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and West Papua.

West Papua featured prominently in the

meeting this year – the first time they attended since their participation in the inaugural meeting in 1992, when the FWCC gathered women representing 15 countries and territories around the Pacific to discuss the problem of violence against women and how to respond to it.

The weeklong meeting was a time of sharing, affirming and learning about the extent of gender-based violence, the issues related to it, the causes and the potential solutions.

At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed on a 10-page statement of that provides a framework to help participants put those plans into action.

One of the main agreements made was that the Regional Meeting be held every two years instead four because of the scale and breadth of work that remains to be carried out in Pacific countries.

The meeting canvassed a range of issues relating to violence against women and girls and heard from practitioners and policy-makers in the field. The issues included: increased services for survivors of violence against women and girls; improving access to justice through better working relationships with police forces and sensitive and urgent response from police personnel; increased and ongoing training in

gender equality, violence against women and human rights for front-line health workers, and; urging Pacific governments to put global conventions on women and girls into practice.

The outcomes statement included an agreement to always keep women at the centre of all prevention and response programs. For example, the preferred term is 'violence against women and girls' because it names the problem and is centred on women's experiences of violence.

Outcomes from the meeting included specific actions Network members could take to move the commitments forward, including in the areas of working with faith-based organisation, women and girls with disabilities, sorcery-related violence, protection against violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, culture and religion, perpetrator programs and male advocates for women's human rights.

The next meeting of the PWNAVAW is expected to be convened in August 2018.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as the FWCC's biggest and longest-running donor, provides funding support for the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women meetings.



# Fiji has lost part of its soul

By SHAMIMA ALI

Ratu Joni's passing is a huge loss for Fiji and the wider Pacific. I was honoured to serve with him on the Fiji Human Rights Commission as a fellow commissioner in 2004.

As a friend and confidant, Ratu Joni was somebody who unobtrusively and quietly mentored me over the years, including in the difficult period after 2006, when he himself was a victim of the coup.

Despite his own personal travails, Ratu Joni taught me that flexibility is sometimes necessary in the work that we do and in some circumstances a concession on principles is necessary if doing so will get things done.

Ratu Joni always had time for the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and maintained an abiding interest in our work.

Even with his high ranking traditional status, he never demanded respect and was a man who fit in without much fanfare with both ordinary people and those in high places.

Every leader in this country should emulate Ratu Joni's unassuming, unpretentious and respectful leadership. I encourage young people to read his writings and speeches.

We failed to recognise the prescient and uniting force Ratu Joni was and because of this we threw away the chance to allow him to continue his contribution to building our nationhood at a time when we struggled to define it ourselves.

It is sad that someone of his calibre and stature was not allowed to play the role he could have effectively played in our beloved country. Despite this, he managed to influence many of us positively.

In Fiji's recent history, his was a voice of reason, calm and integrity which perhaps was not appreciated by some.

In losing Ratu Joni, Fiji has lost a part of its soul.

Ratu Joni always dignified any occasion whether it was social or formal. He had a rare and wonderful wit that we enjoyed so much and he would often regale us with his observations and recollections about life, politics and everything in between.

Another interesting fact about Ratu Joni was his love of chillies, which he could effortlessly consume in copious amounts. Whenever he was over for a meal, we would ensure a full stock of chillies was on hand.

Despite his tragically short time with us, Fiji and the Pacific will continue to benefit from his legacy and values for many more years to come.

We wish peace and love to his wife Adi Lusi and his family.



Ratu Joni and Shamima Ali at a National Federation Party rally in Nadi, Fiji in 2014.

## Ratu Joni: a matchless man with a mighty heart

It is not very often that somebody exists who is universally acknowledged as embodying a unique collection of traits and values, knowledge and wisdom, humility and wit.

For Fiji, Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi was that person – a high ranking chief with impeccable legal credentials, who was acutely aware of the multicultural fate dealt to his country and whose thinking put him way ahead of his time.



Shamima Ali signs the condolence book for Ratu Joni on Bau Island.

He was also a person, who despite the intelligence and leadership qualities that Fiji sorely needed, was rejected by the powers-that-be and

who ultimately would ply his trade for other Pacific countries that seized on his brilliance even if his own compatriots would not.

On his passing in September 2016 at the age of 59, he was the Chief Justice of Nauru. His death was a huge blow for all who knew and worked with him. After his ousting as Vice President in 2006, his work had taken him to Solomon Islands, PNG and other places.

Ratu Joni, who held the traditional title of Roko Tui Bau and had been bestowed titles by Tonga and Samoa, was a long-time friend and supporter of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre as well as the wider feminist and human rights community in Fiji and the Pacific. When invited, he would go out of his way to speak at FWCC retreats, conferences and events.

In 2000, after he had resigned as a judge of the High Court of Fiji following the civilian-

led coup and the widespread looting and destruction that accompanied it, Ratu Joni did not hesitate to spend his time at FWCC launching the 'We Need Rainbows, Not Rambos' campaign. That signature campaign, still used today, denounced the gun-toting usurpers with posters featuring rainbows and children – who are now young adults.

When FWCC's new Australian-funded flagship building at Gordon Street, Suva was completed in November 2006, Ratu Joni, as Vice-President, was the one to deliver the keynote address and cut the ribbon with the then High Commissioner of Australia, Jennifer Rawson.

Just weeks after the opening of the new building, Ratu Joni faced one of the most challenging and humiliating times as a lawyer and as a leader – his unceremonious removal as Vice-President because of his refusal to support the military takeover.

Ratu Joni was a staunch advocate of the rule of law and believed it to be strongly linked to the work to eliminate violence against women.

In June 2009, delivering the keynote address titled 'Violence Against Women and the Rule of Law' at the fifth meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women, Ratu Joni spelled out the inextricable relationship between eliminating violence against women and institutions and systems governed by the rule of law.

"The rule of law strives for fairness and consistency of treatment to all persons. Custom, which is the application of tradition and culture, disadvantage and marginalise women. They reinforce acceptance of violence against women



Above: At the opening of the new FWCC headquarters in 2006 when Ratu Joni was Vice President of Fiji. Below left: Giving the keynote address at the 5th Meeting of the Regional Network. Below right: Ratu Joni at the launch of the 'We Need Rainbows, Not Rambos' campaign in 2000 following his resignation as a judge of the High Court of Fiji.

because they perpetuate notions of their inferior status. It is a short step from that rationale to justifying beatings, forced marriages, rape and killings of women," Ratu Joni told the participants.

"Without the rule of law there is no foundation upon which violence against women can be addressed in a proper manner."

At his funeral on the chiefly island of Bau in late September, his lifelong friend and legal colleague Graham Leung delivered a heartfelt eulogy in which he described Ratu Joni's approach to life and his profession and rebuked the establishment that had treated him so badly.

"It is paradoxical that a man born of the aristocracy and destined for greatness was in many respects given greater respect outside the country of his birth. His messages of peace, reconciliation, tolerance and inclusiveness often fell on barren soil. How prophetic are the scriptures that a prophet should be shunned in his own land," Leung told the mourners in the packed Ratu Seru Cakobau Memorial Church.

"Long before it became fashionable to preach the virtues of multiculturalism in this country, he practised it – not by loud words from the rooftops, or the forceful advocacy of his profession. But simply and quietly everyday



going about his labour."

Back at the beginning of Fiji's contemporary political troubles in 1987, Ratu Joni was spurned by his chiefly peers because of his belief in a Fiji that was "blind to race and ethnicity", Leung explained.

"Torn between what was popular and what was right, he never hesitated to take the principled line, even to the point where he would be accused of disloyalty to his class or even race. Truth and justice were his constant companions. It is difficult to imagine the courage it would have taken to stand up for what he considered to be right, or the loneliness he must have felt during times in Fiji's history when he was ostracised by elements in the establishment for the views he espoused."

Another enduring friendship Ratu Joni had was with Imrana Jalal, also a lawyer, feminist and board member of the Fiji Women's Rights



Movement. Like Ratu Joni, Jalal was hounded out of Fiji because of her stance on the 2006 military coup.

In her personal tribute to Ratu Joni, Jalal wrote: "It is he who ought to have been our Chief Justice and/or President in the last years of his life. He had the requisite intellectual brilliance, stature, integrity and a genuinely multiracial heart and perspective, a rare combination in any man, in any person. He was matchless in Fiji. He had no peer and those who denied us the opportunity to benefit from his formal leadership will be judged by history."



# Summary of agreed outcomes for the next two years

- Using globally accepted best practices that use languages focusing on women's human rights and experiences of violence.
- Calling for increased services in rural and outer islands and for human rights and feminist training approaches in counselling and shelter services across the region.
- Calling for those Pacific Islands governments without domestic violence legislation to implement it, as well as allocating sufficient resources to ensure it is fully implemented.
- Calling for ongoing and increased training for frontline health workers in gender equality, VAWG and human rights, and increased allocation in national budgets to strengthen health sector responses to VAWG.
- Calling for training of faith-based leaders in gender, VAWG and human rights and calling on religious organisations to promote a theology of that encourage and promote women's equality, equal participation at all levels and ending VAWG.
- Urging Pacific governments who have not to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and putting in place non-discriminatory measures that safeguard the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls with disabilities.
- Committing to raising awareness of violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity and to identifying the root cause of such violations.
- Acknowledging that Women's Human Rights Defenders are at great risk as a result of their work and calling for development partners and Pacific governments to recognise the risk and ensure urgent action response mechanisms are in place.
- Recognising the need for the network to develop a perpetrator program based on ethical standards and best practices while recognising that it is a complex program to design and implement.
- Recognising the need to undertake feminist research on VAWG at country level and calling on state agencies to have accessible statistics on VAW.
- Acknowledging that culture and religion have a critical impact on VAWG and reaffirming a commitment to addressing the inequalities and VAWG by working through traditional and religious leaders
- Acknowledging that deep and enduring beliefs in magic and sorcery in Papua New Guinea and other affected Pacific

countries remain a big challenge and that women are the majority of victims of torture and killing after being accused of practicing sorcery; and calling for the governments of affected countries to act to eliminate the killing of women in this manner.

- Recognising the importance of markets to women and their contribution to the informal economy and calling on governments to put in place specific measures to reduce and eliminate every form of violence in the market place.

- Acknowledging the voices and experiences of women and girls in West Papua as a result of the political struggle there and recognising that women and girls in West Papua face violence on both the political and the personal front, in particular VAWG perpetrated by men.

- Recognise the human rights concern with the presence of regional processing centres for refugees in Papua New Guinea and Nauru; commending the PNG Supreme Court for declaring the illegality of the detention of asylum seekers and refugees at Manus Island and the decision to close the centre.

- Recognising that violence against women and girls in the mining communities of New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Nauru and PNG and calling for feminist research to be undertaken in these countries.

- Recognising that climate change and natural disasters affects women's lives and workloads and increases their vulnerability to many forms of violence; and urging Pacific Islands governments and development partners to ensure the participation of women and ensure their needs are met at all stages of addressing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

- Condemning the use of information and images about the response to and work with VAWG survivors without full consent and participation in the development of publications from the beginning to the end of the process.

- Male advocates for women's human rights reaffirmed their accountability to the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women in all advocacy work; calling on donor agencies and development partners to recognise that the Male Advocacy for Women's Human Rights is a unique Pacific home-grown innovative program.



Osnat Lubrani, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, giving the keynote address at the 7th Regional Meeting in Warwick, Sigatoka, Fiji.

## Lubrani: VAW must be addressed to achieve SDGs

Violence against women is an issue that cuts across all areas of development and unless it is effectively addressed, ambitious frameworks such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be difficult to achieve for Pacific countries.

That was the theme of the keynote address to the Seventh Regional Network Meeting on 13 August 2016 by Osnat Lubrani, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative.

Lubrani spoke of how achievement of the SDGs are intimately linked with the ability to bring down the high prevalence of violence against women in the Pacific.

The UNDP, says Lubrani, is carrying out consultations in the Pacific to help countries advance the SDGs agenda in line with their own national development priorities.

"In each and every of these consultations, the issue of violence against women comes up and it doesn't come up just when we discuss goal five of gender equality. It comes up in each and every area," Lubrani said.

"One of the phrases that has accompanied the adoption of this agenda is 'leave no one behind. It's a very powerful phrase but when you think about it, it is not easy to achieve because these are people who don't have a voice, they cannot find us so it's for us to go out and find those left behind, bring them and lift them into the agenda."

The SDGs are an intergovernmental set of 17 aspiration goals adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

The 17 goals include gender equality, reduced inequalities, and the promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions.

Shamima Ali, the FWCC Coordinator and Convenor of the Regional Meeting said: "Often we work with violence against women in a void and not make the linkages. And those of us who work in this area know that violence against women underpins all the other issues out there."

Seema Naidu, the gender officer of that

the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), relating the Pacific context of SDGs, said ending violence against women remained a commitment of Forum leaders through the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality declaration.

"Reporting and strong accountability systems on eliminating violence against women has been promoted through the Forum statements at the Commission on the Status of Women," Ms Naidu said.

Abigail Erikson, the Ending Violence Against Women Programme Specialist at UN Women in Suva explained that SDGs were significant because they contained a specific commitment to gender equality.

"To have violence and the centrality of violence focused on within these Sustainable Development Goals is important because violence often gets swept under the rug in some of these big commitments and there are broad statements about equality, focusing on economic independence or access to education, but this also brings violence out and I think that matters for us in this time and place," Ms Erikson said.





Rode Wanimbo in the traditional dress of her West Papuan highland tribe



Ivana Yohana (West Papua), Bernadetha Mahuse (West Papua), Sabet Cox (PNG), Marilyn Tahi (Vanuatu), Shamima Ali (FWCC) and Rode Wanimbo (West Papua) in solidarity with West Papua and its women.

# West Papua cries resound at Regional Meeting

**“Thank you for thinking of us.”** With those simple yet powerful words, Rode Wanimbo, opened her presentation on the plight of the people of West Papua – especially its women – at the Seventh Regional Meeting in August.

Wanimbo's participation and that of her three other countrywomen marked the first time in more than two decades that West Papua was represented at a Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (PWNAAVW) meeting.

Indeed when a Papuan representative attended the first meeting in Fiji in 1992, that territory claimed by Indonesia was still called Irian Jaya, as evidenced by an embroidered banner created by participants at the first meeting that takes pride of place at each regional meeting and Regional Training Program (RTP).

Rode Wanimbo, who is the coordinator of the women's department of the Evangelical Church of West Papua, made an emotional but matter-of-fact presentation to the 60 participants at the Regional Meeting at the Warwick Resort in Sigatoka, Fiji.

She outlined the suffering caused by Indonesian state policies that have left the West Papuan people desperate for self-determination, and Papuan women even worse off than their menfolk.

According to Wanimbo, the indigenous Papuan population was under threat of extinction because of the widespread extrajudicial killings, the Indonesian policy of transmigration which is flooding the province with non-Papuan migrants, the environmental degradation and an HIV/Aids epidemic exacerbated by the huge numbers of soldiers and other state security agents stationed there.

The indigenous West Papuans are already outnumbered in their land: of the 3.5 million population only 45 per cent are Papuan.

An extremely high mortality rate among indigenous people combined with an influx of Indonesian migrants mean the West Papuans are “strangers in their own land”, according to Wanimbo.

Wanimbo called for regional and international solidarity for the women of West Papua because they suffered both as women and as indigenous West Papuans. They suffered violence inflicted by state agents as well as domestic violence, rape and other forms of abuse within their homes and communities.

## Violence against women

Wanimbo cited a survey by the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women published in 2010, which indicated there were high rates of sexual, non-sexual and community-based violence.

The report found that women in Papua were subjected to rape, slavery, forced use of contraception, murder, torture and arbitrary detention, psychological trauma due to the murder of family members, domestic violence, polygamy and economic neglect.

The 2013 national census placed the poverty rate in Papua at around 35 percent, and most of those affected are women.

Papuan women were almost invisible when it came to job opportunities in public facilities in the cities, which are dominated by non-Papuan men.



West Papuans and supporters marking We Bleed Black &amp; Red Wednesdays.

Indigenous Papuan had no access to financial support, markets for their products and entrepreneurship training.

In 2012, Papuan women demonstrated in Jayapura for a permanent market place because they were left to sell by the roads in unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

## Massive exploitation

The massive exploitation of natural resources has led to a loss of livelihoods for so many West Papuans. For example, a mega agricultural project called the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE), which covers 2.5 million hectares where there once was forest, is having serious impacts, especially on the Marind tribe.

In 2013, the Forest Peoples Programme and 26 Indonesian organisations submitted a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) requesting its consideration of the situation of the indigenous peoples of Merauke.

Forest Peoples Programme said: “The irreparable harm they have already experienced continues to expand and intensify as more companies commence operations.” The process of moving between two and four million workers to Merauke to provide labour for the MIFEE project is overwhelming the rights and well-being of indigenous Papuans.

## Poverty and wellbeing

On the Human Development Index, Papua province comes out the lowest compared to the overall national Indonesian level. Figures from the UNDP (2007) and Indonesia's National Bureau of Statistics (2010) cited by Wanimbo showed the poverty rate in Papua was 41 per cent (compared to the national rate of 18%). Life expectancy was between 40 and 50 years (67 nationally), while maternal mortality was pegged at 1025 per 100,000 live births (compared to 307 per 100,000 nationally). Infant mortality is 70-200 per 1000 (compared to 49 nationally)

Wanimbo also highlighted the growing health crisis fuelled by

rampant HIV/Aids infections which she said are being caused by the influx of HIV-positive prostituted women being smuggled into the country with the backing of the military.

An estimated 20,000 people are living with HIV/Aids and most of them are West Papuan housewives and girls.

The West Papuans' Melanesian culture is dying, says Wanimbo, routinely stigmatised as primitive and backward. Papuans are systematically being forced to consume rice and to become dependent on foreign products.

## Education

The national-based curriculum that has been imposed on West Papuans ignores local content and the Melanesian way of life, giving the impression to indigenous children that their own culture is inferior. Better school facilities and teachers tend to be concentrated in urban areas, and are utilised by Indonesian migrants.

In another strike at the heart of West Papuan way of life, the Indonesian government is placing contract Muslim teachers in remote areas in what has been called the ‘Islamisation’ of West Papuan children through education. The teachers are completely out of place in remote West Papua, having come from urban centres and a different way of life, culture and religion to teach the impressionable young indigenous.

## Politics and government

When it comes to participation in politics, it is an almost impossible ask for West Papuan women. Special autonomy for West Papua has failed because politics is controlled from Jakarta and Papuan women lack opportunities in government and political recruitment. Political parties are controlled by migrants collaborating with Papuan men.

For example, of the 56 seats in the Papuan parliament, only 5 are Papuan women (9%) and even then those women are mostly the relatives of the local political elite.

At the provincial level, only two departments have Papuan women – one Papuan woman in each of the two departments.

## Self-determination

Wanimbo ended her presentation with a plea to the participants – and to the Pacific at large – to support their struggle for self-determination.

She called for the inclusion of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua in the Melanesian Spearhead Group, for the removal of the Indonesian security apparatus and the halting of natural resource extraction.

Political dialogue, she said, must be promoted with the inclusion of Papuan women representatives and women's voices in any decision-making process, and the region's support and awareness was needed to realise their dreams.

Wanimbo says: “The Pacific is incomplete without West Papua. We cannot become strangers in our own land.”



# Men taking on perpetrators of violence

One of the major insights gleaned after years of work implementing the Male Advocacy for Women's Human Rights Program is that, despite earlier hesitancy about creating a perpetrator program, it is apparent there is a need for one.

The reason is simple: due to the dynamics of violence against women and women's desire not to break their families apart, a high percentage of women in violent relationships often go back to the perpetrator.

In such cases, a perpetrator program grounded in a rights-based, feminist approach could help improve the chances of survival and safety of women living with violent partners.

This was one of the main outcomes of the daylong meeting in August of the Pacific Women's Network's Male Advocates for Women's Human Rights, who gathered to review the work done and the challenges they continue to face.

Acknowledged as an innovative, Pacific-centred, homegrown initiative using a feminist, women's human rights framework to respond to violence against women, the Male Advocacy for Women's Human Rights Program developed over a decade ago is beginning to have an impact.

Representing Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, the Male Advocates outlined their achievements over the past four years – as well as the issues that still need to be dealt with.

The Male Advocates described some of the work they are doing and the impacts in their communities.

In Kiribati, which has one of the highest prevalence rates of violence against women in the Pacific and the world, the church council was convinced to approve the incorporation of gender-based violence awareness in Sunday schools, according to Male Advocate Maerere Eria, a graduate of the FWCC's Regional Training Program, who works in the Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs.



Male Advocates for Women's Human Rights at the Regional Meeting, L-R: Aaron Mane (Solomon Is), Maerere Eria (Kiribati), John Kaumi (PNG) and Jioji Cakacaka (Fiji)

In Papua New Guinea, Magistrate John Kaumi of Port Moresby (who attended a Male Advocacy training facilitated by FWCC) spoke of responding to violence against women through the justice system. Crimes of sexual violence far outnumber every other offence that the Port Moresby courts deal with. The removal of discriminatory legal provisions such as the rule of corroboration in sexual assault and rape cases and the criminalisation of marital rape has helped women get justice and Kaumi described some of the stiff sentences now being handed out for sexual offences.

One of the earliest approaches to Male Advocacy work in Fiji was through sports. Josh Tulele of Fiji Volleyball Federation, a graduate of the FWCC's Male Advocacy program, spoke of the uphill battle in the beginning to raise the issue of violence against women during volleyball events. While there are still instances of resistance in some communities where

these events take place, there is now a greater recognition of the problem of violence against women and young men are beginning to play a role in raising awareness.

Vanuatu Male Advocate Pastor Andrew Jackson of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church reports that in his sector, women take to the pulpits in churches once a month.

Tonga's Male Advocates have played a critical role in raising awareness about the discriminatory systems in place that exacerbate the impact of violence against women. Tito Kivalu, a Male Advocate who works in Tonga's Ministry of Justice, described how he struggles trying to ensure the justice system and the police force respond appropriately to violence against women. However, despite these challenges, his role in advocating for women's human rights within the system and helping them understand the impact of gender-based violence is well regarded.

## Challenges in healthcare response to domestic violence

Doctors often face extra challenges when treating survivors of domestic violence and gauging the extent of their injuries, according to Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, Associate Professor of Surgery at Fiji National University.

Dr Waqainabete gave a medical practitioner's insight into the nature of domestic violence during the Seventh Regional Meeting in August 2016.

Women survivors of domestic violence often suffered serious injuries so would turn up at emergency departments where privacy is limited and cases are treated in plain view.

According to Dr Waqainabete, the person who caused the injuries would often bring the victim-survivor to the hospital or visit the survivor while under treatment. To prevent doctors from reporting the case, the victim-survivor or her partner often falsified their account of how the injuries happened or underestimated the extent of the injuries. Sometimes the women survivors would refuse to press criminal charges.

Dr Waqainabete, in common with other medical colleagues from around the region, also called for better reporting of domestic violence statistics in data collected by health services. He highlighted the absence of accurate statistics on domestic violence captured through health services because of the lack of appropriate coding

# FWCC marks 32 years among friends

The 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) coincided with the 7th Meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women in August 2016.

The Centre marked more than three decades of struggle to change attitudes and behaviours about why it happens, among the 70 participants at the meeting from around the region and Fiji.

During the meeting, women's human rights workers and representatives of organisations working to end violence against women reaffirmed the vital role they saw the FWCC as playing in strengthening and supporting the work around the Pacific to end violence against women.

The FWCC was founded in 1984 on feminist human rights principles, specifically focused on eliminating violations of women's human rights in response to the growing problem of rape and domestic violence and the patriarchal attitudes that blamed women for these violations of their human rights.

A group of local and expatriate women began informal meetings to look into the problem and what could be done about it.

Building on the work of other organisations, such as the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), a group of women conducted research into rape in Fiji. Based on that research and the increasing media reports of rape, the women began meeting as a collective twice a month at the YWCA in Suva from early 1984, as the Women's Crisis Centre (WCC). By mid-1984, the Centre's existence was formalised.

"The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre was set up based on women's experiences of violence," says Shamima Ali, who has been FWCC Coordinator for 30 years.

Speaking about the struggle to keep the FWCC going, including expanding the reach

of its programmes, Ms Ali told Network members: "This work has to be done without fear. You need to keep pushing the boundaries and if one approach fails you can go back and re-strategise, but you must never stop trying."

By the 1990s, the FWCC was recognised as a leader in the Pacific in the area of eliminating violence against women. In 1992 the FWCC facilitated and hosted the First Pacific Regional Meeting on Violence Against Women in Suva comprising women from 15 Pacific Island countries.

The inaugural meeting led to the establishment of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women. Since then, it has served as a support mechanism for women in the Pacific who are working in the area of gender-based violence and human rights. This, in turn, is reflected in the emergence of several new counselling centres in the Pacific region including in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Kiribati.

Since 1992, the FWCC has convened a Regional Network Meeting every four years, although this year's meeting agreed to hold the meeting every two years because of the magnitude and breadth of work that remains to be done.

When the FWCC was being formed in the mid-1980s, rape and domestic violence were not topics of public discussion but the issue could not be ignored once the women who founded the Crisis Centre began raising the issue in the media and responding to insensitive media reporting on violence against women.

As the Centre began responding to rape and domestic violence, women started bringing their children along, and soon enough the issue of child physical and sexual abuse was also brought to the attention of the wider public.

Since then, FWCC has grown from a purely volunteer effort by Fijian feminists and expatriate supporters to an independent organisation that has been able to raise millions of dollars in donor aid to fund the difficult work to end violence against women and children.

This has also involved extending the FWCC's work to help other Pacific women establish their own women's human rights organisations and carrying out training programmes of its own for other organisations within Fiji and the Pacific.

Following on from the setting up of the PWNAAV in 1992, the FWCC launched its flagship month-long Regional Training Programme (RTP) in 1995.

The RTP is held up to twice a year to train women's human rights workers, social workers, police and prisons personnel and other responders to violence against women from across the Pacific.

Training topics include gender and patriarchy, violence against women and human rights, including counselling for survivors of violence, using the media for advocacy and allied topics.

For most of its existence, the FWCC has received funding support from the government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). As the FWCC's biggest and longest donor, DFAT will continue to fund the Centre until 2020, when funding is due to be reviewed.

Another major donor of FWCC's programs has been New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), which funds the operations of FWCC's other branches outside Suva.

on treatment and admissions forms in hospitals and health centres. Rather than classified as an injury due to intimate partner violence, admissions forms only indicate the type of injury. He also recognises that specific, sensitive, individualised care, such as in rape cases, must be provided to reduce stigma.

Facial, head and neck injuries are the most common in women who turn up at health facilities following a domestic violence attack. Discussing the pattern of injuries to women by men in intimate partner relationships, Dr Waqainabete said the most common injuries were to the face. The injuries often left permanent scarring and even with cosmetic surgery the outcome was not the same as before the injury.

Facial injuries were often associated with head injuries and also disturbed the facial architecture.

Also common were burns, usually inflicted through open flames or through being doused by kerosene or petrol and set alight. Dr Waqainabete related how women who were attacked in this way later died by suicide, which he termed "secondary domestic violence".

Chest injuries involved fractured ribs leading to lung contusion and abdominal injuries leading to a ruptured spleen.



Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete





Elizabeth Cox speaks about her work with market vendors during the Regional Meeting.

# Market women still suffer because of gender inequalities

It is estimated that women constitute 80 per cent of the informal economy and in the Pacific market places are the most common place to generate income.

Yet while the money Pacific women earn from selling in markets is vital for their families and communities, they endure violence and discrimination in multiple forms and from a variety of institutions.

This was one of the major issues acting as barriers to women's economic empowerment discussed during the Pacific's major meeting on violence against women in Fiji in August 2016.

Elizabeth Cox, an Australian feminist development worker who calls Papua New Guinea home, has spent decades highlighting the struggles of women market vendors. Through her years of interaction with women market vendors and of studying the dynamics of marketplaces in Melanesia, Cox understands the underlying issues that contribute to the discrimination and violence against women in markets.

A founding member of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women,

Cox is the former head of UN Women Pacific in Fiji, where she founded the Markets for Change program, which works with vendors associations and local government authorities to improve opportunities and conditions for women vendors.

In her work raising awareness about the challenges women face in market spaces, she has shown that women still face huge inequalities, including sexual harassment, unhygienic, inadequate and sub-standard selling spaces.

The absence of women's representation and voices on vendors' associations also means their experiences and needs often go unrecognised and unmet.

But Cox – affectionately known as Sabet – says the problems facing women do not just begin within the market precincts. Women are subjected to violence and threats of violence at home and in the community and must bear the burden of organising household chores, child rearing and gardening where they are often the main producers.

Says Cox: "Those problems begin at home,

to get to market, on the way to market, at the market, on the way home from the market and when they are back home."

"These are all part of what we have to understand: that the violence is not just around the marketing and street trading," Cox says.

"The violence is also happening before: whether they are allowed to go to the market, whether they have to take their children with them and then what happens to the money when they come home.

"Lack of control over the income is critical," says Cox, who has worked with market vendors in PNG, Fiji, Solomons and Vanuatu.

One of the difficulties women face is preventing their male partners from taking all of their income and savings.

Building on the foundations of her earlier work with women market vendors, Sabet has founded the AWESOME initiative, which "aims to transform markets into social and economic learning and innovations hubs for women vendors/traders to empower themselves."

AWESOME is an acronym for Advancing Women's Economy (through) Street (and)

## Improved market conditions in Port Moresby

Papua New Guinea's National Capital District Commission (NCDC) has seen vast improvements brought about through a program to create safe markets free of violence for women and girls.

Port Moresby's Safe Cities Program is part of UN Women's Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women and Girls Global Program. The program seeks to prevent and reduce sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in urban public spaces.

NCDC staff Kay Kaugla and Charlie Pengi explained in a presentation at the seventh regional meeting in Fiji that the local authorities in PNG's capital city that markets were chosen to implement the program because women comprised 80 per cent of the vendors and they majority did not attend school or had minimal education levels.

Pengi, a graduate of the FWCC's Regional Training Program, said the the Safe Cities program was implemented in market spaces because it would have a greater impact since women were in the majority in these spaces and experienced multiple forms of violence and abuse.

Through the program, women's experiences in the market have been improved.

There is a transit house to allow women vendors to rest and refresh, a playground for vendors' children so they are occupied while their mothers sell and a women-only bus to reduce the risk of sexual assault and harassment.

Equal opportunities for women including at supervisory and managerial level where appointments are now based on merit. Previous markets were only managed by men but that has now changed: a woman is the manager at Gerehu Market.

Market staff, security guards and police officers have received gender sensitisation training, while officers at the market police posts are trained to report cases of violence against women and to refer survivors of gender-based violence to the appropriate Safe Cities referral services.

The use of technology also has a flow-on effect. Vendors now pay their market fees through mobile phone banking that has also prevented pilferage and leakages of revenue for the city, which in a 2012 UN Women study was estimated to be at between 60-90 per cent of collected revenue.

Health-oriented activities in the markets have included tests for sexual transmitted infections and pap smear, family planning and health and hygiene advice.



National Capital District Commission staff Kay Kaugla, top, and Charlie Pengi, above, who are in charge of the Safe Cities Program in Port Moresby

Opportunities & Market-based Enterprise.

The initiative is premised on the understanding that "men's exploitation of markets for power and 'easy cash' prevents realisation of markets' full potential for improving women's lives, their families' lives and the local economy."

AWESOME envisions a network of women's markets/trading hubs owned by women and run by women, for the benefit of women and their families.

Through PNG's recent "hard-won" Informal Economy Act and policy, Sabet sees the opportunity to mainstream and elevate the concerns of women market vendors throughout the country.

"The initiative envisages women controlling their own economic affairs through markets that ensure good governance, proper facilities and stable tenure," Sabet says.

"Women could initiate and control markets and informal economy hubs," says Sabet, "accessing more good and services, reaping direct benefits and able to control their incomes."



# You can't rate a leader by the followers

By Teresia Teaiwa

How do we tell the good leaders from the bad? How can we be sure that the ones claiming to lead us to safety through the fire, are not the very same ones who dropped the matches into the tinder in the first place? The popularity of leaders is no indication of their objective merits. And, sometimes, the most honourable leaders are the ones left by the wayside, speaking too much truth to gather a following.

One such leader from the Pacific passed over to the other side in June this year. Her name was Susanna Ounei. She was a proud Kanak woman, an indigenous New Caledonian who had fought for the independence of her country in the 1960s and 1970s, and who rose to prominence across the Pacific in the 1980s and 1990s as a formidable advocate for women's rights and a nuclear free and independent Pacific.

In the 2000s, she settled into a humble though still staunch existence in the bustling community of Newtown, in Wellington, New Zealand. After I shared on Facebook that Susanna had died, several friends sent me messages to say that they had just ridden the bus with her the previous week, had seen her at mass recently, or chatted with her at the bus stop. That was Susanna. Nothing pleased her more than being with "the people." She often moved anonymously through the streets and markets of our city. She also had a phenomenal green thumb, and in her later years, enjoyed community gardening. She was a predictable presence at the many marches and demonstrations for social and political justice in the capital of this country. She reached out to many - always willing to have a conversation, especially about politics - but few would have realised that they were talking to someone who had played a significant role in the history of decolonising our Pacific.

Susanna was born in 1945. She came from a family that had its roots in Ouvea, one of the Loyalty Islands in Kanaky New Caledonia. She was raised at different times in different parts of the French colony, including Wallis and Futuna.

As a young woman, she joined the Red Scarves, a radical group formed in 1969, advocating for independence from France for Kanaky New Caledonia. She worked in a bank at the time, and was often the one who ended up feeding and bailing out her comrades. She organised behind barricades, stared down the barrels of guns, chained herself to fences, and composed songs when she also ended up in prison.

As the movement evolved from a Front Indépendiste into the FLNKS (Front de Libération National Kanak et Socialiste), she became a voice not just for independence and socialism but also for gender justice in Kanaky.

Her activism extended into the wider Pacific through her work with both the Nuclear Free

and Independent Pacific (NFIP) movement and the Pacific women's movement. She was part of the UN's Third Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985 where she met one of her inspirations, the former US Communist Party member and Black Liberation activist Angela Y. Davis. (They would next meet 22 years later in Wellington, when Davis was on a tour speaking about prison abolition.) The 1980s in Kanaky New Caledonia saw a number of traumatising events - including the massacre by French settlers of 10 Kanaks at Hienghène and the murder of independence



The late Susanna Ounei of Kanaky

leader Eloi Machoro by police in 1984, the massacre by gendarmerie of 19 Kanaks on Ouvea in 1988, and the assassinations of independence leaders Jean Marie Tjibaou and Yiewene Yiewene by fellow nationalist, Djubelly Wea, who was likewise killed in the fracas.

The 1980s were also when Susanna lived in Aotearoa New Zealand. While married to activist and academic David Small, she completed a degree in sociology at the University of Canterbury, and wrote and published several influential pieces on Kanak independence. Friends still marvel at the speed with which she developed fluency in the English language - in less than a year, she went from speaking no English at all, to undertaking international speaking tours entirely in English.

When the secretariat of the NFIP, the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, was relocated from New Zealand to Suva in the 1990s, Susanna was appointed to its decolonisation desk. This is when I first met her. During that time she was actively involved in organising and galvanising Pacific women for the UN Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

The late 1990s also saw France invest heavily in efforts to subvert the nationalist movement in New Caledonia. France's success in weakening the Kanak will to independence dismayed her — and, rather than compromise her ideals, she chose to live in voluntary exile

in Wellington where, for the past 16 years, she raised two children as a solo parent, battled with health problems, and yearned the whole time for her homeland of Kanaky New Caledonia.

My friendship with Susanna really intensified during this time. When she was well she came to seminars and conferences at the university, and in the early days gave guest lectures to some of my Pacific Studies classes.

One morning about 10 years ago, she and her daughter Jessie accompanied me and my older son Manoa to the Porirua market. As we wandered around, she spoke about how the Polynesian music blasting from speakers, and the hot round donuts, boil-up, and hot chocolate all reminded her of home.

But the highlight of the morning for her was when we bumped into the late Bernard Narokobi, who was then the high commissioner for Papua New Guinea. He'd been one of only three Papua New Guineans with a university degree when Australia relinquished its colonial hold over his country. Susanna's dream of an independent Kanaky had not been realised, but in talking with Sir Bernard, I suspected that she could see that Papua New Guinea was not quite living the dream either. The struggle for independence in the Pacific is not one that ends the day a country gets to raise its own flag.

Susanna was an awe-inspiring figure, but in many ways she was so unique in her form of leadership that most people (including me sometimes) could not comprehend the power of her example. She was a true warrior woman. And that kind of uncompromising leadership - the choice to keep the struggle going, to refuse to be bought, to always pick the rough road and never the well-paved one - that's the kind of leadership that has few followers. That is the real problem of our times.

With her two children now grown and raising families of their own, Susanna often talked about moving back to Kanaky to lend a hand to the movement, especially as more and more of her former comrades began to pass away.

At the same time, Susanna never failed to join her voice to movements for justice here in Aotearoa - from tino rangatiratanga/Māori sovereignty, to anti-corporate globalisation, to a Free West Papua and a Free Palestine. You could be sure to see her in public demonstrations of solidarity with anyone under attack from the state, like the 18 activists and their communities targeted in the 2007 Terror Raids and the Waihopai Spy Base protesters of 2008.

Moe mai rā e te wahine toa. May we never forget your example. And may we eventually find the courage to lead - whether or not we have followers.

► Dr Teresia Teaiwa is Director of Va'aomanū Pasifika at Victoria University of Wellington. This article was first published on e-tangata.co.nz on 31 July 2016 and used with permission.

## EXPRESSION



### Her Body & Spirit

Tyler-Rae Chung is a student at the University of the South Pacific and a member of the Young Solwarans activist group, which raises awareness on West Papua.

She describes her painting, titled 'Her Body & Sprit' as being inspired by the lack of media coverage of the women of West Papua. The coloured feathers represent the tribes of West Papua, while the Indonesian flag covering the woman's mouth represents the body (red) and the spirit (white). "Her body and spirit has been violated by the oppressors of West Papua," says Tyler-Rae.



By JULLY MAKINI

Jully Makini is an accomplished poet and USP graduate who hails from the Western Province of Solomon Islands. She is also the convener of a group working on preventing violence against women and girls in the Western Province called Gizo Family Support Organisation. She is also a member of the Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women wrote and delivered this poem at the close of the 7th Regional Meeting held in Fiji in August 2016.

### The Land of the Morning Star

For West Papua, we cry  
For West Papua, we weep  
For West Papua we mourn, and question WHY?

For the land of the Morning Star  
Our tears flow  
Our hearts beat for the West Papua struggle  
In the Land of the Morning Star

For the Land of the Morning Star  
We feel as one  
We speak as one  
We think as one  
We stand as one.

We stand united with West Papua  
With belief. Perseverance and hope  
That when the moon is full  
We'll meet at Numbai  
In the Land of the Morning Star.



Send your creative expressions to fwcc@connect.com.fj

## FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

### APPLICATION FORM FOR THE REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

APPLICANT'S NAME: .....

HOME ADDRESS: .....

PHONE:..... FAX:.....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

TYPE OF TRAINING DESIRED:.....

☐ ✓ TRAINING BY ATTACHMENT  
(4 weeks):

☐ ✓ SHORT COURSE  
(3 weeks):

SENDING ORGANISATION : .....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

PHONE:..... FAX:.....

APPLICANT'S POSITION IN ORGANISATION:.....

ENDORSED BY:

1. Name: .....

2. Position: .....

1. Name: .....

2. Position: .....

SPONSORING ORGANISATION: .....

CONTACT PERSON: .....

ADDRESS: .....

PHONE:..... FAX:.....

\* List any requirements of trainee regarding health, diet, language, etc in an attachment to this application. Also attach a one-page summary with more details of the applicant's work and interest in working on violence against women, and include a brief statement of your position on women's rights.

### Subscribe to BENEATH PARADISE

☐ 4 issues  
(1 year)

☐ 8 issues  
(2 years)

☐ 12 issues  
(3 years)

Payment details: I enclose my **bank draft** for \$ ..... made payable to **FWCC**.

NAME: .....

MAILING ADDRESS: .....

This subscription form is only for subscribers outside the Pacific region and includes postage and handling.

**COST:** US\$30.00 per year

**POST TO:** Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, PO Box 12882, Suva, Fiji

**EMAIL:** fwcc@connect.com.fj