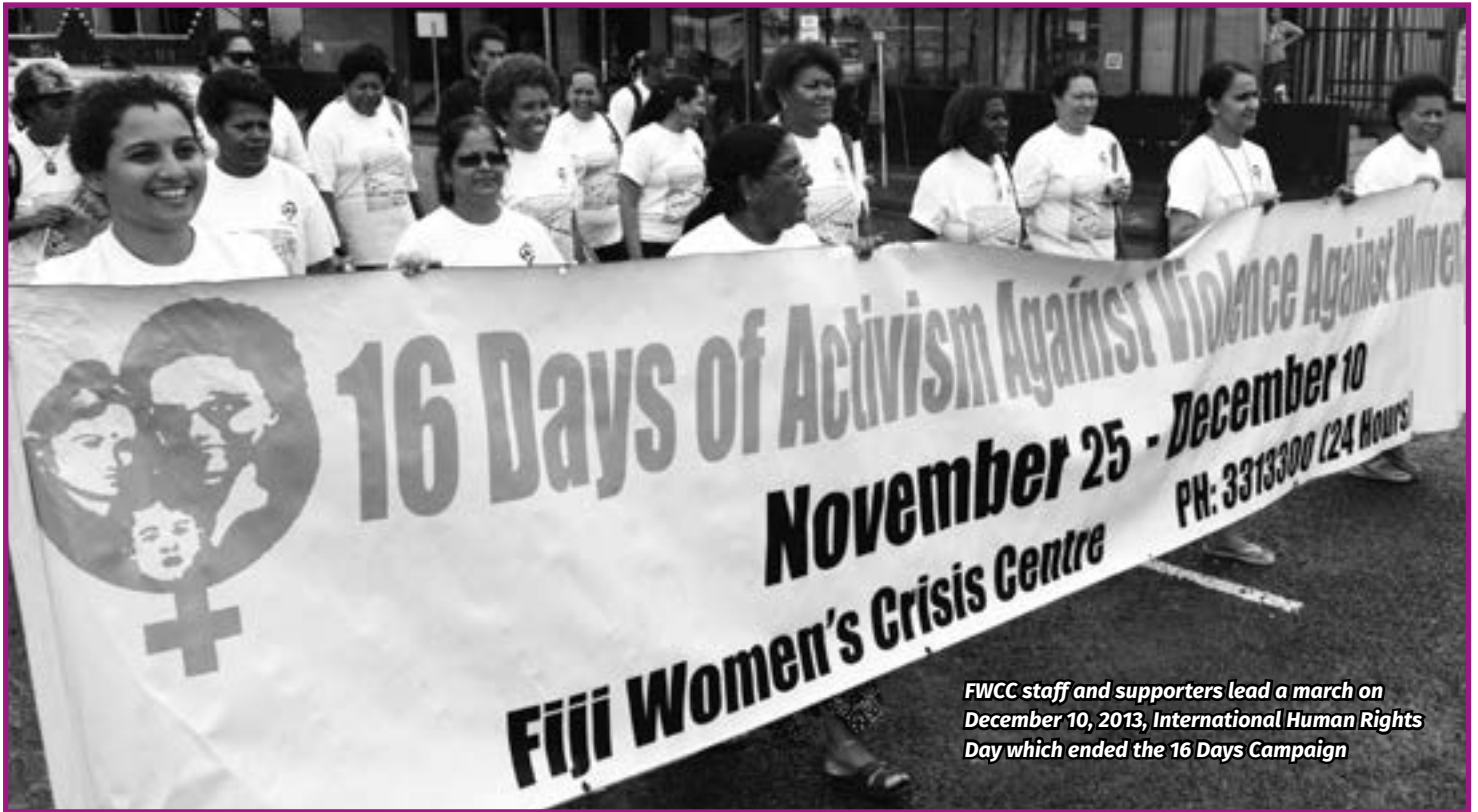




Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOVEMBER 2014

24 YEARS OF 16 DAYS



FWCC staff and supporters lead a march on December 10, 2013, International Human Rights Day which ended the 16 Days Campaign

IN JUNE 1991, the FWCC's Shamima Ali was among a group of 23 women from around the world gathered at Rutgers University in the American state of New Jersey, which created a human rights campaign that would go on to become a global annual event aimed at raising awareness about violence against women.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was born out of the first Women's Global Leadership Institute (WGLI) convened that year by Rutgers' Centre for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL).

Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a human rights violation.

This 16-day period also highlights

other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

Those first WGLI graduates probably did not foresee the incredible success of the campaign strategy they devised.

Their initial efforts and the commitment of countless other activists over the years has led to more than 5167 organisations in 187 countries marking the 16 Days Campaign, bringing the issue of gender-based violence a significant amount of international attention.

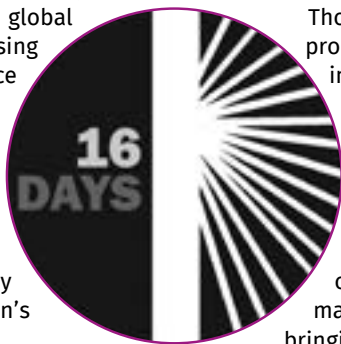
Among the handful of organisations to mark the first 16 Days Campaign in 1991 was the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. These organisations have continued to use this period every year to shine a light on the

many forms of violence women and girls face daily.

"The initial rallying call of the 16 Days Campaign, 'women's rights are human rights,' resonated all over the Pacific," Shamima Ali recalls in a CWGL publication. The campaign also raised the profile of International Human Rights Day – once the domain of official UN events – and has played a significant part in the movement for democracy, rule of law and human rights in Fiji and the Pacific.

For the past five years, based on feedback from participating organisations and individuals, the CWGL, as the global coordinator of the campaign, has kept the theme unchanged: 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!'

The theme highlights "the systemic nature of gender-based violence and militarism which encourages inequality and discrimination," CWGL said in its theme announcement.



30 years later, the statistics stack up

THE FIJI Women's Crisis Centre marked 30 years of service to the women of Fiji and the Pacific this year. Since its inception in 1984, the FWCC has dealt with:

- 11,504 domestic violence cases
- 502 rape cases
- 227 sexual harassment cases
- 767 child abuse
- 10,988 other cases

From January to October this year, the FWCC received 575 domestic violence cases, 17 of rape and 34 of child abuse (physical and sexual abuse).



Police officers from Palau and Fiji after their graduation from the Regional Police Training Programme.

First regional training for police

THE FIRST-EVER Regional Training Programme for Pacific police officers was held in October 2014 in Nadi. *Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, PNG and Vanuatu.*

- It was funded by the Australian Federal Police and facilitated by FWCC.
- 30 police officers attended from Fiji, Palau, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru,

Male advocates reach level four

FWCC held stage four of the Regional Male Advocacy Training in Nadi from 10-15 February.

- 25 male advocates from Fiji, Nauru, PNG, Vanuatu and Tonga attended
- Participants were from police, religious organisations, youth groups and community workers.
- They were specifically chosen and trained to be able to properly respond to violence against women.
- The training focused on influencing others in their sphere of work to change mindsets and to promote women's human rights.



Male advocates from Fiji, Tonga and PNG during the Stage 4 training in February.

FWCC teams up with police for training

THE FIJI Women's Crisis Centre conducted five training workshops for Fiji Police Force officers between May and June this year in a bid to sensitise them to the dynamics of violence against women.

- 190 police officers - 84 females and 106 males
- 17-21 March in Nadi: with officers from Keiyasi, Namaka, Sabeto, Border Control and Lautoka
- 14-17 April in Nadi: with officers from Ba, Tavua, Vatukoula, and Rakiraki
- 20-23 May in Labasa: with officers from Rabi as well
- 9-13 June in Suva with officers from the Southern and Central Division
- 23-27 June with officers from Lau and the maritime zone.

40 GRADUATE FROM RTP

THE 31ST INSTALMENT of the FWCC's flagship Regional Training Programme was completed in June in Suva.

- Participants attended from Fiji, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- The training covered domestic violence, sexual harassment, child abuse, human rights law as well counselling training, advocacy and lobbying.

An average of 43 women are injured every day due to violence by their husband or partner.

* FWCC 2010-2011 National Survey

Why these particular 16 Days?

THE 16 Days from November 25-December 10 were chosen to reinforce the rallying cry that all forms of violence against women is a human rights issue and that acts of violence against women are human rights violations.

The campaign period begins on November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends on December 10, International Human Rights Day.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was first declared in 1981 by the first Feminist Encuentro (feminist conference) for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Bogota, Colombia. November 25 was chosen to commemorate the violent assassination of the three Mirabal sisters on that date in 1960 by the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic.

In 1991 when the first Women's Global Leadership Institute was convened at Rutgers University, the participants also chose that date as the start of the campaign they designed. It took the United Nations General Assembly almost a decade after the first 16 Days event to officially recognise 25 November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 1999, in honour of the Mirabal sisters.

The 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including:

- ❖ **November 29:** International Women Human Rights Defenders Day.
- ❖ **December 1:** World HIV/Aids Day.
- ❖ **December 2:** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- ❖ **December 3:** International Day of Disabled Persons
- ❖ **December 6:** Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre that took place in Canada in 1989. In that attack at a university campus, a



Close to a hundred people turned up to join the staff and supporters of the Ba Women's Crisis Centre on Tuesday November 25, 2014 in a march through Tavua town to mark the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.



Members of the Naitasiri Rural Women's Association marked the 16 Days Campaign at Naqali last year.

25-year-old man specifically targeted women – shooting dead 14 female students and injuring 10 other women and four men. The day became known as White Ribbon Day in Canada and increasingly across the world after a group of men decided to wear a white ribbon to signify their support for the elimination of violence against women.



Participants of the male advocacy training held in Nalaba, Ra during the 16 Days Campaign last year for 70 men representing the six main villages in the district.

- ❖ **December 9:** International Anti-Corruption Day
- ❖ **December 10:** International Human Rights Day

Focus on women with disabilities

WOMEN WITH disabilities are faced with a higher risk of experiencing violence and discrimination in all areas, something confirmed in a 2010 research carried out by the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons.

The report titled 'Making Women with Disabilities Visible', was aimed at establishing a baseline survey of disabled women in Fiji.

The survey revealed the lack of accessible support services in the community which

further marginalises women and girls with disabilities and preventing them to fully and equally participate equally in society.

"Gender issues are evident in the different life experiences of women and girls with disabilities from men and boys with disabilities.

Women with disabilities are an important element of the 16 Days Campaign because of their extra vulnerabilities."

On average, 312 women - almost 1 every day - will become permanently disabled each year due to intimate partner violence.

* FWCC 2010-2011 National Survey

We remember...

Over the past two years, many women in Fiji have lost their lives due to violence perpetrated by an intimate partner. Here we remember some of the women who paid the ultimate price for the violence against women that is prevalent in Fiji and across the world today.

Kasaya Veiseikonabou, 33, was stabbed on a bridge and thrown into a river in Tailevu in January 2013. Her estranged husband Sailasa Mociu was jailed for 20 years.

Joytika Singh, 31, was killed by her husband in a murder-suicide on June 27, 2013 at Vatuwaqa, Suva.

Elenoa Waqaicece, 37, and her mother Salaseini Komaiyasi, 60, were allegedly stabbed to death by Waqaicece's husband in August.

Viniana Alifina, of Koroipita in Lautoka was allegedly beaten to death by her defacto husband in October.

A 12-year-old girl, who is yet to be publicly identified, but is believed to be member of the Chinese community, was found dead in her Samabula home in September 2014. No charges have been laid yet in her murder.

Naomi Vakatawani, was burned to death after her husband set her alight in December 2013 along with their nine-year-old daughter who survived. Eliko Suka is wanted by police.

Hamida, 50, of Nakavu, Nadi, was stabbed in the neck by her nephew in January 2014. The nephew was jailed for 15 years in September.

Salaseini Batiratu, 46, stabbed to death by her husband in January 2013 at their home in Macquarie Fields, Sydney. The husband was jailed for 14 years in April 2014.

Tracey Ann O'Brien Maw, an Australian who had been living in Fiji, was found murdered in bushes in Sigatoka several days after she was last seen in early November. A man has been charged with her murder.

Maimun Nisha, 47, was stabbed at her in-laws' home in Vadravadra, Ba, in November with a kitchen knife allegedly by her estranged husband who has been charged with murder.

Ashna Devi, 14, was found with cuts to her neck in Viria Village in Nausori. A 35-year-old man she was allegedly in a relationship with has been charged with her murder.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre 3313 300/ 9209 470
Nadi Women's Crisis Centre 6707 558/ 7404 760
Ba Women's Crisis Centre 6670 466/ 9239 775
RakiRaki Women's Crisis Centre 6694 012/ 9129 790
Labasa Women's Crisis Centre 8814 609/ 9377 784

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Branches 16 Days of Activism 25 November - 10 December, 2014 Program

Dates	Activities
10 Dec	FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE Human Rights Day March in Suva Time: 10.00am Assemble: 9.30am at Suva Flea Market Route: Usher Street, Thompson Street, Edward Street straight onto Scott Street towards Stinson Parade and ends at the Suva City Council lower auditorium for an Exhibition.
29 Nov	NADI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE Roadshow – In conjunction with Lautoka Police Venue: In front of Lautoka Police Station Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm Confidential counselling available, meet the staff, sale of t-shirts, and sharing of information on violence against women and girls. All Welcome
1 - 4 Dec	Lomawai Community, Sigatoka - Workshop on Role of the Centre, Gender, Domestic Violence, Rape, Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse
2 Dec	BA WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls Inter-agency meeting.
3 - 5 Dec	Nawaqarua Village, Ba - Workshop on Role of the Centre, Gender, Domestic Violence, Rape, Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse.
3 Dec	Toko, Tavua - Community Education on the Role of the Centre, Domestic Violence and Rape.
4 Dec	Qalela, Tavua - Community Education on Domestic Violence, Rape and Child Abuse.
10 Dec	Human Rights Day March in Ba Town Time: 10.00am Assemble: 9.30am at Tabua Park Route: Tabua Park, Bank Street, Ba Main Street to Jolly Good Shed. All welcome.
2 - 4 Dec	RAKIRAKI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE Togovere Village, Rakiraki - Workshop on Gender, Domestic Violence, Rape, Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse.
10 Dec	Information booth in Rakiraki Town Venue: Opposite Rakiraki Bus Stand Time: 9.00am – 1.00pm Confidential counselling available, meet the staff, sale of t-shirts, sharing of information on violence against women and girls. All welcome.
1 - 6 Dec	LABASA WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE Rabi Island - Workshop on Human Rights, Gender, Domestic Violence, Rape, Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse. Mobile Counselling.
10 Dec	Human Rights Day March In Labasa Town Time: 9.00am Assemble: 8.30am – Y-Corner Route: Y-Corner through Labasa Town to Civic Centre. All welcome.
11 - 12 Dec	Kama District School, Tukavesi – Community Awareness on Children's Rights, 10 Rules of Safety for Children, Child Sexual Abuse.