



FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 2

July 2003

Crimes of passion

RECENTLY we have seen a spate of murders, which have been classified by the media and the police alike as crimes of 'passion'. In the last six weeks as reported by the Fiji Sun 05/06/03 there have been 4 cases where a man has killed his wife/partner. In the past two weeks, another case has been reported.

In the past five years (1998-2002) there have been a total of 9 domestic murders. Out of this 7 cases are of men murdering their wives/partners and 2 cases where women have murdered their husbands/partners.

These murders at times have been classified as crimes of passion. Such labels can be misleading and underplay the seriousness of the crime. In cases where women are murdered by their husbands there is normally a history of violence and abuse perpetrated by the husband against the woman and children.

Labeling it as a crime of passion gives the impression that it took place on the spur of the moment. That the husband arrived home one

day and after an argument murdered his wife.

Or the woman provoked the attack and he could not control himself. Research has shown that in cases where women are murdered by the partners, there is a history of serious violence and abuse, that it was not a one off attack but a series of attacks and abuse that eventually leads to the murder of the woman.

Studies from Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States of America show that 40-70% of female murder victims, were killed by their husbands or boyfriends, frequently in the context of an ongoing abusive relationship. (World Health Organization, 2002)

Even in cases where women have murdered their husbands/partners, there is usually a history of violence, whereby the woman has suffered years of abuse from her husband/partner.

Research shows that women who have been abused and kill their husbands/partners do so, because the woman felt that was the only way to

stop his abuse or believed that he would have killed her. In a national survey on violence against women in Canada one-third of all women who had been physically abused by a partner said that they had feared for their lives at some point of their relationship. (WHO, 2002) The killing of women by their partners/husbands should be understood in the context of gender based violence.

Most battered women report that they were aware that their husbands/partners could kill them. They had experienced many threats of violence and believed that their husbands/partners were capable of carrying them out.

Classifying the crime as a crime of passion leads to a lesser sentence. Crimes of passion are unique, as, when they are defined as such, the perpetrator is not likely to have a history of criminal activity nor is it likely they will ever

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Anglican Church declares decade of non-violence

Decade of non-violence

THE Anglican Church of Fiji along with other members of the World Council of Churches (WCC) worldwide has declared a Decade of Non-Violence from 2001-2010.

Reverend Sereima Lomaloma of the Anglican Church of Fiji said the church recognized that there was so much violence everywhere, which needed to be addressed.

"Sometimes I ask myself where is the basic respect that we used to have for one another. It seemed to be slowly disappearing and is very alarming," Rev.Lomaloma said.

"When we lose that respect we are opening ourselves up to chaos."

The WCC members have committed themselves to addressing this issue.

"This year we launched a project known as "Church in a Plural Society" that would be examining the mission of the church in a country that is increasingly pluralistic in its composition but that is also encountering ethnic tensions and conflicts," Rev.Lomaloma said.

Issues up for discussions in upcoming workshops will include peaceful co-existence, prejudice, discrimination, Christianity and the state, Christianity and culture.

According to Rev.Lomaloma they are hoping that in looking at these issues parishioners would take an in-depth look at themselves with the



Lomaloma... where is the respect?

purpose of creating the right environment for living in peace and harmony. Violence in any form is not condoned by the Anglican Church. "This is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Bible contains Jesus' new commandment in John 13:34: "And now I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another." According to Rev.Lomaloma this is the basis for Christian living but unfortunately this was the hardest commandment to follow in our daily lives.

"People commit violent acts daily whether it is being disrespectful to another person, wife beating, incest, rape, robbery with violence,

**HANDS TO
END VIOLENCE
- AGAINST
WOMEN**

Crimes of passion

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offend again. It is meant to define a spur of the moment crime. Women still are blamed for allegedly inviting violence, the label of 'crime of passion' normally gives reasons such as the victims refusal to the perpetrators demands, for instance a man beats his girlfriend to death after she refused to marry him, as provocation for the attack. The murder of women by their husbands/partners is part of the violence specifically aimed at women. Men believe that women are their possessions and that they can do with them what they like.

The murder of women by their husbands/partners should be understood in the context of the unequal power relations that exist between men and women and the traditional/cultural/religious practices and beliefs that create an environment that allows this violence to take place.

By treating these murders as 'crimes of passion' and by not punishing the perpetrators harshly helps create an environment whereby violence against women becomes acceptable.

When reasons such as domestic arguments are used to give the perpetrator a lenient sentence, society is giving out the message that in some situations the application of extreme violence is excusable.



Reverend Adeline Naidu (in black coat) with workshop participants at the Community of Christ Church in Valelevu

Empowerment workshop

BECOMING the woman God created you to be was the theme of the day for 15 women who attended a half-day session that was facilitated by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's deputy coordinator, Edwina Kotoisuva. The women who came from as far as Ba and Lautoka and were members of the Community of Christ Church, gathered in Valelevu and discussed the issue of domestic violence. Organiser, Reverend Adeline Naidu said the workshop was organised as part of the empowerment process for the female congregation. "We have eight ordained women ministers but none of them have preached from the pulpit," she said.

Rev. Naidu said the women need to stand up for themselves and let their voices be heard not only within the church but in the community as well. Three men were also part of the workshop.

MURDER CASES FROM 1998 TO 2002

Total murder cases by total domestic murder from 1998 to 2002

YEAR	TOTAL MURDER CASES	TOTAL DOMESTIC MURDER	% REPRESENTS
1998	14	2	14
1999	23	0	0
2000	17	0	0
2001	28	1	4
2002	18	6	33
TOTAL	100	9	9

The table above shows the total Murder Cases compared to total Domestic Murder from 1998 to 2002. A total of 100 murder cases were recorded from 1998 to the year 2002. Out of the total, 9 were of husband murdering wife or wife murdering husband.

Total domestic murder compared to husband murdering wife from 1998 to 2002

YEAR	TOTAL DOMESTIC MURDER	HUSBAND MURDERING WIFE	% REPRESENTS
1998	2	2	100
1999	0	0	
2000	0	0	
2001	1	1	100
2002	6	4	67
TOTAL	9	7	78

The table above shows the total Domestic Murder Cases compared to Husband murder Wife from 1998 to 2002. A total of 9 murder cases were recorded from 1998 to the year 2002. Out of the total 7 murder Cases recorded were where husbands murdered their wives.

Source: Fiji Police

Decade of non-violence

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discrimination, and child abuse etc." Rev.Lomaloma said the church's role in promoting a violent-free society was very important.

"The majority of the people in Fiji and the island countries in the South Pacific said they were baptised Christians. So the church is an important stakeholder."

"The fundamental principle of Christianity is love, love for everyone irrespective of their color, creed, ethnicity, sex, political affiliation

etc." According to Rev.Lomaloma every church has to begin with its congregation especially when the daily newspapers have been highlighting the number of criminals in jails who identify themselves as belonging to the Christian religion.

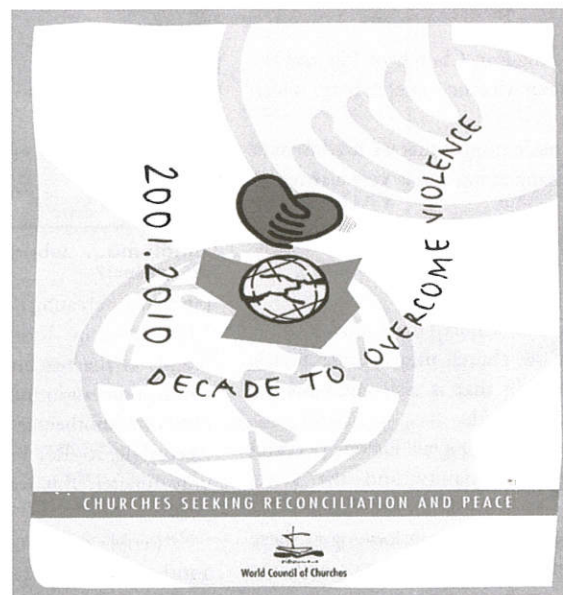
"I personally do not believe that calling yourself a Christian has any meaning at all unless you try to live by its principles.

"That is why it is important for the churches to go back to their teachings and really look at the recipe for raising a home where the Christian principles of love, forgiveness, respect, sharing etc is an important component of nurturing." Rev.Lomaloma said this has to be preached again from the pulpit and affirmed in the way we live our lives.

"Workshops must be organized where people will have an opportunity for self-examination.

"But it was also important to note that the church is beginning to become an irrelevant institution in the shaping of young minds."

According to Rev.Lomaloma young people nowadays were exposed to a lot more influential factors. "The church is facing a lot of competition so it needs to repackage its message to ensure that it remains a significant factor in the lives of its congregation," Rev.Lomaloma said.





RTP PARTICIPANTS: L-R (Standing) Apollos Yimbak (PNG), Shirleen Aziza (FWCC), Sera Vakalala (FWCC), Edwina Kotoisuva (FWCC), Lynffer Maltungtung (Vanuatu), Sera Bogitini (LWCC), Losana McGowan (FWCC), Adelle Khan (FWCC). L-R: (Sitting) Shaireen Mohammed (BWCC), Marie Shem (Vanuatu), Tangitamaiti Ne Tara (Cook Islands), Maibwebwe Tearikua (Kiribati), Rainaz Nisha (BWCC), Susana 'Uhatafe (Tonga). L-R: (Floor) Apollonia Bola Talo (Solomons), Jai Narayan (Fiji), Lotty Kayai (Vanuatu)

25 attend training

TWENTY-FIVE participants from around the region gathered in Suva for a Regional Training Programme. The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre has held the training since 1995.

The training covered issues of Human Rights, Gender, Violence,

Sexual Abuse, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, Legal Literacy and how to effectively use the media. The next RTP will be held in October.



Labasa Centre's Project Officer Sera Bogitini presents a gift to Hon. Marian Hobbs, the Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs, NZ

NZ AID visits Labasa

THE Labasa Women's Crisis Centre staff received a visit from a New Zealand Government delegation in April.

New Zealand's Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon. Marian Hobbs headed the delegation which was made up of NZ MPs, academics, media and representatives from NGOs. Labasa centre's Project Officer,

Sera Bogitini said the 30-member team was impressed with the work done by the centre.

"They were surprised that we have managed to help so many women with the very little resources we have," Ms Bogitini said. The Labasa, Lautoka and Ba Centre's are supported by NZ AID.



Jai Narayan of the Fiji Police Force receiving his certificate from the Fiji Government Director for Women, Alefina Vuki. Beside Ms Vuki is FWCC's Regional Administrator Adelle Khan

Narayan's new view on issues

THE Regional Training Program has changed Jai Narayan's insight on women and children's issues.

"I learnt a whole lot of information that I never even knew before," Mr. Narayan said.

"It was also the first time I have heard about certain United Nations Conventions and I found them to be all interesting."

The RTP provided the officer with a whole new challenge in his professional field of work. "Before I used to have a different view on victims

and crimes but now I have a whole new perspective on how to effectively deal with every issue that I might come across," Mr Narayan said.

According to the Nasinu Police Officer, even before the training concluded, he had started implementing some aspects of the training within his family and religious group members.

"Now I will try and convince my superiors in organizing meetings and community awareness programs," Mr. Narayan said.

Calendar of Crimes

May 2003

- **6th** - A 26 year old Lautoka man who has been charged for the alleged murder of his wife has been remanded in custody
- **6th** - A Man appeared in court for allegedly bashing his wife to death and another for causing grievous harm to his spouse
- **7th** - A Man was arrested for trying to fondle a 15 year old girl aboard an Air Pacific flight to Honolulu
- **7th** - A Man appeared in court for allegedly killing his girlfriend
- **10th** - 15 year old student of Lekutu Secondary charged with attempting to rape his 14 year old girlfriend
- **12th** - A School teacher is to appear in court for allegedly killing a woman he wanted to marry.
- **15th** - A 21 year old FIT student of Laqere pleaded not guilty to defiling a teenage girl
- **17th** - A Man who acted as a witchdoctor and allegedly raped a woman appeared in court
- **17th** - A Man charged with killing his de-facto wife and

attempting to kill his father in law was released on bail

- **19th** - Two secondary students wanted by Rakiraki police in connection with the alleged rape of a 19-year-old girl at Nabalabala Village
- **20th** - A man charged with raping his stepdaughter, claimed he rubbed chili on her private parts to discipline her
- **23rd** - Man beats wife for five hours but goes free

June 2003

- **4th** - a father beat up his kids
- **4th** - Man kills wife, surrenders to police
- **5th** - a man gets 11 years in jail for incest, rape
- **5th** - Strangler faces murder charge
- **6th** - Man, 20, charged with defiling girl
- **7th** - Man fondles niece, bound over
- **7th** - Men have lunch, demanded sex
- **11th** - Teacher to be disciplined for beating student
- **11th** - Postmaster faces rape claim

Crisis Centre Community Contact

MAY:

• 2nd – ANGLICAN YOUTH GROUP SUVA. Adelle Khan, Nacemah Khan and Shirleen Ali spoke on Sexual Assault and Rape to the 16 members that were present.

• 5th – TABIA WOMEN'S GROUP LABASA. Bimla Singh enlightened the 42 women present on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Child Abuse.

• 2-4th - FWCC facilitated a two day workshop on Lobbying and Advocacy for the Fiji Association of Women Graduates.

• 13-16th - Siteri Namere of the Lautoka WCC spent a week on the island of Naviti where she conducted community education and awareness in four villages. During her time there, she visited schools and other communities. Follow-up trips will be organised for the future.

• 14th – LAUTOKA ADVISORY COUNCILLORS LAUTOKA. Coordinator, Shamima Ali held a discussion with 15 men and 6 women on the Role of FWCC, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse; and Community Responsibility.

• 14th – SOQOSOQO VAKAMARAMA YASAWA. This workshop was conducted in Naviti Island and a total of 85 women, men and children attended with Siteri Namere speaking on the Role of FWCC, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Children's Rights. The children attended the one and a half hours



FWCC Coordinator Shamima Ali at a workshop in Lautoka. On her left is the District Officer for Lautoka/Yasawa, Nacanieli Lomani

session in the evening.

• 15th – HP 102 STUDENTS UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. Deputy coordinator, Edwina Kotoisuva spoke on Women's Policies. About 40 students were present for the session.

• 16th – YASAWA HIGH SCHOOL YASAWA. For two hours Siteri Namere enlightened the 300 Primary and Secondary School students and teachers on the Role of FWCC, Children's Rights and Child Abuse.

• 17th – BULOLO SANATAN PRIMARY SCHOOL BA. Child Abuse was the topic of the day for the 19 women, 5 men, 38 children and 4 teachers who attended this session with Farida Khan.

• 19th - Edwina Kotoisuva spoke to Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Studies students on Restraining Orders and Women's Experiences.

• 21st – SO 207 STUDENTS UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. Edwina Kotoisuva spoke on Violence in the Family.

• 21st – SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH LAUTOKA. 65 women, men and children attended this session with Siteri Namere on the Role of FWCC and Child Abuse.

• 22nd – DIVISIONAL HEALTH CENTRE LABASA. Bimla Singh (Counselor) talked about Domestic Violence and Child Abuse to the mothers at the clinic.

• 22nd – SINDU SUTA NARI

SABHA BA. Farida Khan conducted the sessions on the Role of FWCC, Legal Rights and Domestic Violence. 20 women attended the sessions that were conducted in Hindi.

JUNE:

• 12th - COMMUNITY OF CHRIST WOMEN'S GROUP VALELEVU. Edwina Kotoisuva spoke on Domestic Violence to the 17 women and three men who were present.

• 25th - Session on Gender Issues for Public Works Department middle management staff which was conducted by Shamima Ali and Edwina Kotoisuva.

STAFF PROFILE



NAME: Shirleen Aziza
POSITION: Branch Administrator (Suva Centre)
JOB DESCRIPTION:

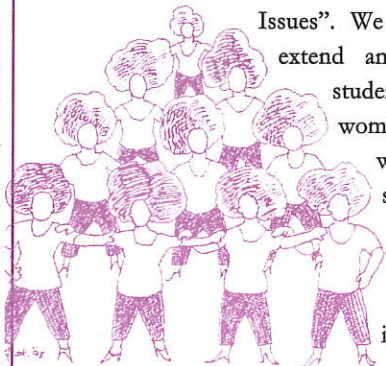
Oversee the running of our other branches. Work with Project Officers in other branches in maintaining counseling &

support services, prepare proposals & reports for donors on behalf of the branches and also provide ongoing support and advice to the branches. I also monitor their programs and provide written and verbal feedback. Assist in Community Education, Research and Publications.

REFLECTIONS: Working at FWCC has given me a deeper insight and understanding of the issues of violence against women and children. It has made me aware of the need to provide such an understanding to the wider community so that eventually individuals will take upon themselves to stop the culture of violence.

FWCC seminars

THE Fiji Women's Crisis Centre is planning to facilitate a discussion on "Feminist Issues". We would like to extend an invitation to students and young women from all walks of life. The sessions are to begin in August.



Interested individuals can contact

Coordinator Shamima Ali or Deputy Coordinator Edwina Kotoisuva at the centre for more details.



FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 3

October 2003

Women raped in their homes

THOUSANDS of women are being silently raped everyday in their own homes by their own husbands or partners. The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's National research on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Fiji (2001) revealed that 47.9% of women respondents had been forced by their husbands to engage in sexual intercourse in the course of their marriage.

Marital rape is defined as any unwanted intercourse or penetration (vaginal, anal or oral) obtained by force, threat of force, or when the wife is unable to consent.

Rape in marriage is an extremely prevalent form of sexual violence, particularly when we consider that women who are involved in physically abusive relationships may be especially vulnerable to rape by their partners.

The first point to remember about marital rape-and all other forms of rape is that it is an **ACT OF VIOLENCE** - it is **NOT** about sex.

The violence applied to secure a victim's sexual submission is an act of power-the perpetrator (typically a male) exercising power and total control over the victim (typically a female). Counsellors at the Centre report that women often come in for domestic violence counselling and within the counselling sessions, they reveal that their husbands forcefully have sex with them.

In one incident, a husband anally raped his wife after she refused to have sex with him, as she was breast-feeding her newborn child.

In some cases, where women have refused to have sexual intercourse with their husbands, their husbands either physically abused them, forced them to strip naked in front of the children, forced them to have sexual intercourse just after giving birth, have had forceful anal sex and some husbands have even forced their children to watch him rape their mother. These are only a few of the many cases that are reported to the Centre. Marital rape is a reality and must be given the recognition it demands.

Despite the prevalence of marital rape, this problem has received relatively little attention from social scientists, practitioners, the criminal justice system and larger society as a whole.



Law does not see crime

MARITAL rape is not seen as a crime in Fiji. If a man is legally married to the woman he rapes, he may not be found guilty of rape (Jalal, 1998). Papua New Guinea is the first country in the region to recognise marital rape as a crime. Rape laws in Fiji define rape as unlawful carnal knowledge, whereby the crime is committed by penile penetration of a vagina without the woman's consent or with consent but under force.

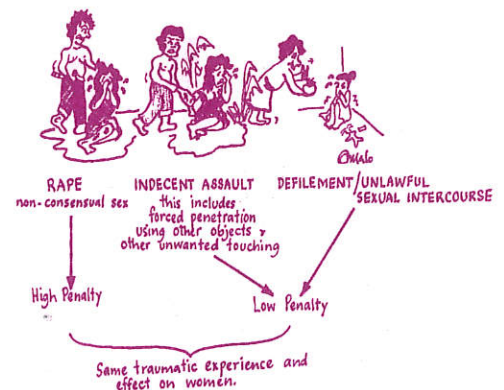
The law disregards rape by the penetration of objects, which is categorised as sexual assault and carries a shorter jail sentence. Many victims of rape feel that Fiji's court system greatly

It does not matter whether a woman is single or married forced sex is RAPE.
- FWCC

ignores their needs. In court, the victim is made to feel as if she is the one who committed the rape. Most often, the victim is allocated the role of just a witness in the witness box and forced to disclose her sexual history, style of dressing, drinking habits and similar insignificant issues for open debate by the defence. The past history even criminal history of the perpetrator is never revealed in court.

In some cases, a rape is followed by a call for reconciliation, bringing into question the extent to which people consider the rights of the victim.

Reacting to a recent case where a 20-year-old Lautoka man was charged for committing unnatural act on his wife FWCC coordinator



WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Educate ourselves about marital rape
- Know the laws in our country and help to lobby for change, if they are unjust
- Educate people to change their attitudes towards women and that women in marriage have a right to say NO to their husbands
- Re-assess our interpretation of religious teachings to see if we may wrongly believe that religious teachings perpetuate violence against women.
- Support the rights of women as human rights
- Respect all women

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MARITAL RAPE

Know the fact to dispel the myth!

MYTH:



X False idea

A woman can't be raped within marriage.

✓ Fact

Rape in marriage is common.

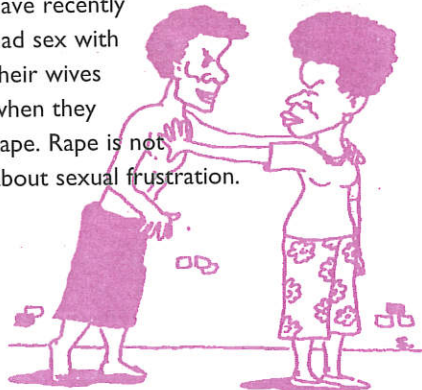
Although it is not yet recognised as a crime in Fiji, if it is against the women's will, it is rape.

X False idea

Men rape because they are sexually frustrated.

✓ Fact

Most rapists are married or in a relationships at the time they rape. Many have recently had sex with their wives when they rape. Rape is not about sexual frustration.



'NO' MEANS NO!

EFFECTS OF MARITAL RAPE

- The **PHYSICAL** effects are : injuries to vaginal and anal areas, bruises, torn muscles, broken bones and knife wounds
- The **REPRODUCTIVE** health implications are: miscarriages, bladder infections, infertility, and the possibility of contracting sexually transmitted diseases like HIV and AIDS.
- The **PSYCHOLOGICAL** effects are: shock, intense fear, suicidal thoughts and post traumatic disorder

Calendar of Crimes

JUNE 2003

- 14th - Husband faces murder charge
- 14th - Security guard admits raping a 19 - year old
- 17th - Man strikes partner with knife
- 21st - Three men beat up woman
- 21st - Father in court for beating up daughter
- 25th - Woman raped at knife-point
- 30th - Husband, friend beat up wife

JULY

- 7th - Rapist dad faces wrath of the law
- 22nd - Man flees after defiling girl
- 22nd - Man burns wife, lover
- 23rd - Juvenile admits killing woman
- 29th - Uncle molests boy
- 29th - Grieving girl kills herself
- 30th - Killer juvenile awaits fate

AUGUST

- 2nd - Paedophile uncle jailed
- 6th - Juvenile in court for indecent assault
- 8th - Man held for abducting girl
- 8th - Five packrape Class 8 girl
- 19th - Boy 15, rapes 3 - year old girl
- 22nd - Man gets 10 years for

Boy, 15, rapes girl, 3

By SIOFA SIOFA
 A 15-year-old boy was sentenced to 10 years in prison for raping a 3-year-old girl. The court heard that the boy had used force to have sex with the girl. The judge said the boy was a "very bad boy" and that his actions were "very, very wrong". The girl's mother said she was shocked and that she had never suspected her son would do such a thing. The boy's father said he was devastated and that he would do anything to help his son. The court also ordered the boy to be placed in a secure facility for the duration of his sentence.

Husband, friend beat up wife: Police

By SIOFA SIOFA
 A woman was hospitalized after being beaten up by her husband and a friend. The police were called to the scene and arrested the two men. The woman was taken to hospital with injuries to her head and arms. The police said the men had been drinking and that the woman was trying to leave. The husband and friend then attacked her. The police are investigating the case and have charged the two men with assault. The woman is recovering in hospital and is expected to be discharged in a few days.

- 23rd - Grandfather molests girl, 9.
- 28th - Soccer player on sexual assault charge
- 30th - Elderly rapist awaits trial

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd - Violence lands man in jail
- 5th - Assault victim disliking judge
- 5th - Man gets jail term for sex attack
- 6th - PAFCO women suffer intimidation
- 9th - Guard admits touching private parts
- 13th - Masked man allegedly rapes young woman
- 16th - Husband gets unnatural act charge
- 19th - Father allegedly raped teenage daughter on several occasions.
- 19th - Sex attack raise fears

FATHER TO APPEAR IN COURT

Girl, 6, dies from beating

The law & marital rape

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 Shamima Ali said many incidences were not officially lodged to the police as there was the stigma attached and the fact that the crime was committed by the husband, thus, the perception was that it is a marital affair.
 "Therefore, we are calling on the definition of rape to be expanded to include all sexual assault and rape," she said.
 Ms Ali said marital sexual offence was difficult to take up to court because the traditional patriarchal relationships still existed and "man can get away with most things".



WHAT DOES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN MEAN TO YOU?

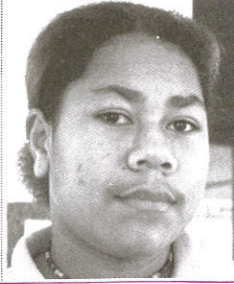
Name: Razia Khan
It means being treated equally at workplaces and having equal say in all decision makings not only at home but in government level as well. Being equal is to share responsibilities as only then can we move forward in terms of development. Women contribute a lot to any development of any nation but their contribution is hardly recognised.



Name: Shainaz Khan
Men and women both speak out and their voices are both heard. It means that women are not suppressed and dominated by males. Both should have equal say and be able to speak their minds on various issues without fear.



Name: Mereisi Risiate
It means that they have equal rights to partake in everything. They can do the same jobs and receive the same amount of pay and be treated equally. Women can also do the things that men are doing but at most times they are not given the opportunity to fully express themselves.



Name: Sarvin Maharaj
For me it means that both gender are equal regardless of their religion and culture. Equal rights should be given top priority, as it is important in nation building. Everyone has the right to work in a non-discriminatory environment but unfortunately in Fiji equal rights do not exist in some work places.



Name: Taniela Masirewa
Equal rights for men and women means equal access for both men and women in certain field and also in job opportunities.



Name: Andrea Prasad
Equal rights for men and women means men and women having equal opportunities such as jobs, wage rates etc. Women should also have equal opportunities to enter certain fields.



16 Days focus on health costs

THE health cost of violence against women will be the focus of this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign. Organized annually by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre the campaign will see men from government, non-government organizations and the private sector gather for two weeks to discuss issues on violence against women.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women is an international campaign that was initiated by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1991.

Individuals and groups that attended organized activities to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and to call for the recognition of women's rights as human rights.

The campaign begins on November 25 which coincides with the International Day Against Violence Against Women and ends on International Human Rights Day, on December 10. November 25 was chosen to commemorate the death of the three Mirabel sisters who were detained, tortured and assassinated in 1960 during the dictatorship of Trujillo in the Dominican Republic.

December 10 celebrates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed in 1948. It states that "everyone is entitled to all rights and freedom set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind such as

race, color, sex..."

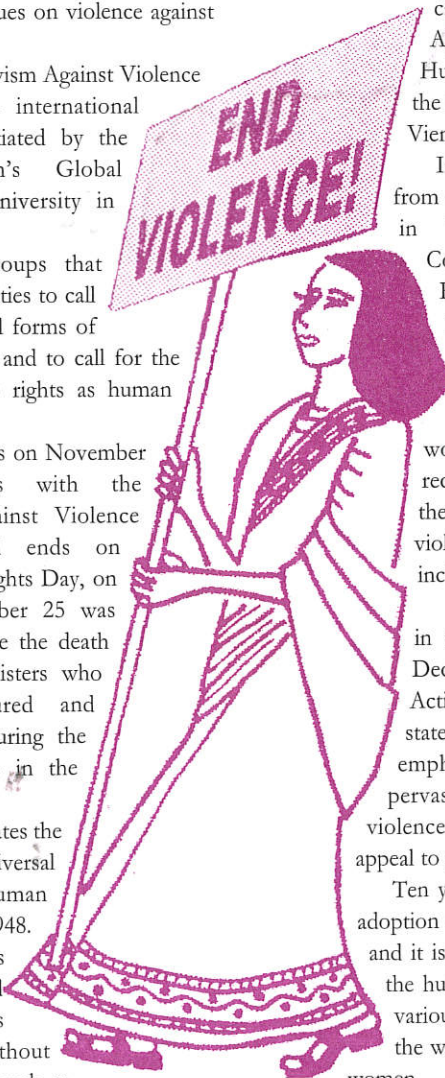
Included within the 16 Days of Activism are:
December 1 - **World AIDS Day**
December 3 - **International Day of the Disabled**
December 6 - **Montreal Massacre Anniversary**

The international theme for this year's campaign is Violence Against Women Violates Human Rights: Maintaining the Momentum 10 years After Vienna (1993-2003).

In June 1993 representatives from countries and NGOs met in Vienna for the UN Conference on Human Rights. Women's Human Rights advocates had worked for two years nationally, regionally and globally to ensure that women's rights were recognized as human rights at the UN Conference and that violence against women was included in the discussions.

The Conference resulted in the document the Vienna Declaration and Platform of Action. This was signed by 171 states. This was historic in its emphasis on the global pervasiveness of gender-based violence and in its compelling appeal to governments and the UN.

Ten years have passed since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and it is time to look at how both the human rights framework and various initiatives have affected the work to end violence against women.



Peacemaker Ratu Draunibaka

Ratu makes peace in Buka

THE situation in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, has changed dramatically over the past two years for Ratu Draunibaka. Ratu who hails from Bau Island is back on the island after two years as part of a peace-monitoring group. So famous is he amongst the locals that when you utter the word Fiji to anyone in Buka Town, they will quickly say Ratu's name and show you the way to the Bougainville Transitional Team headquarters where he works.

The team, which includes a woman, is from the Pacific region and their work is based on the principles of the United Nations. But unlike the rest of the team, this was Ratu's second trip to Bougainville and his free spirit has won the hearts of the locals who were all excited upon his return. "I first came here in 2001 as part of the Peace Monitoring Group. There were five other Fijians from the Fiji Military Forces that I came with and we were all based in different locations."

Ratu Draunibaka is one of only two Fijians in Bougainville. The other is Father Lorenzo Vodivodi a Catholic priest who has been living there for the past two years.

Man should consult family

COMMUNITY CONTACT

JUNE:

• 20th - Soqosoqo Vakamarama, Labasa. Staff members from the Labasa Centre spoke on the roles of the Centre, domestic violence and child abuse. There were 25 participants.

• 30th - Rabi Island - A senior counsellor from the Labasa Centre conducted a two - day workshop on the roles of the Centre, domestic violence, sexual harassment, child abuse, rape and basic counselling sessions.

JULY:

• 8th - Bulileka Women's Group, Labasa. The 32 women present learnt issues related to domestic violence and sexual harassment.

• 23rd - Anglican Church, Suva. Twenty - eight laypersons attended the sessions on domestic violence.

• 28th - Nurses Practitioners - attended a one - week session on Basic Counselling Skills in Tamavua.

• 31st - Domestic Violence was the topic of discussion with Form 301 students of Indian College.

AUGUST:

• 7th - Thirty-two Management - level PWD workers in Suva attended the session on the roles of the Centre, gender awareness and sexual harassment.

• 18th - FWCC gave a presentation on domestic violence at the Pacific Theological College.

• 18th - 19th - Fifty-five women attended a two-day workshop on domestic violence, rape, child abuse and the roles of the Centre.

• 21st - Domestic violence, rape and child sexual abuse was the topic of discussion for the Seventh Day Adventist Dorcas women.

• 29th - Police Academy, Nasova. Session was on the role of the Centre, gender sensitivity, gender issues and rape as part of the Superintendent's Qualifying Course, attended by 7 men.

SEPTEMBER:

• 8th - 10th - Seventh Day Adventist, Lautoka - Hundred people, including 30 men and 30 children attended a workshop on Violence against Women and Children.

DOMESTIC violence can be solved if the head of the household consults with other family members on every decision made about the family.

This was the view of one of the Form 301 students of Indian College after listening to a presentation by Edwina Kotoisuva.

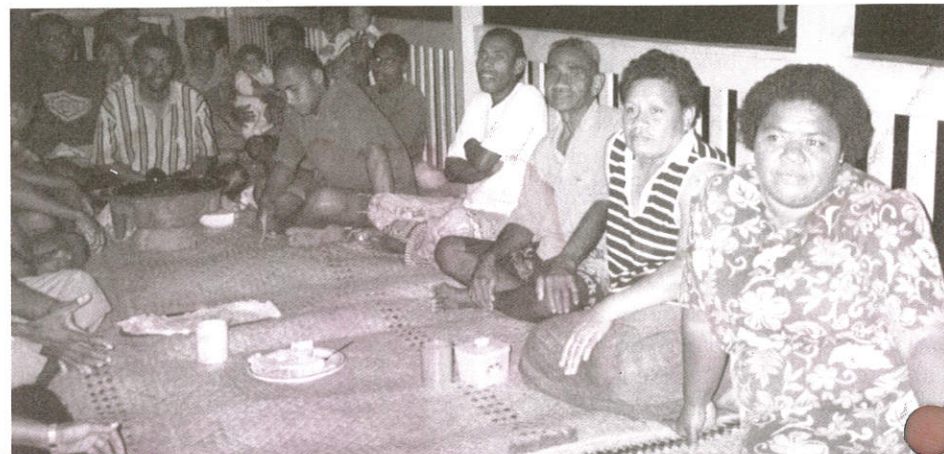
Ms Kotoisuva said the presentation generated a lot of debate on the issue but in the end all agreed that men can control their violent behaviour.

"The students all came up with excellent viewpoints and it was great to see that they showed interest in the issues," she said.



Form 301 students of Indian College listen to the presentations

'Lock up offenders forever'



Participants at the Vatudova Village workshop with LWCC's Rinieta Ratawa (in stripes)

PEOPLE who commit incest should be locked away forever, a 60-year old male participant told a recent FWCC workshop. The man said the current time served by the perpetrators for incest was not enough.

A group, made up of men, women and children were all eager to learn about the issues of domestic violence.

"Some men had even asked if the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre had any programs to educate men on these issues as they are the main perpetrators," said Labasa Centre's Project Officer, Sera Bogitini. "I explained to them about the Men's Advocacy Training on gender that FWCC does in Fiji and in the Region.

The workshop was held in Vatudova Village in Labasa.

STAFF PROFILES



NAME: Teresia Raqitawa
Toganivalu (Labasa Centre)
POSITION: Counsellor & Community Educator
JOB DESCRIPTION: Counselling clients and conducting

community education programmes
REFLECTIONS: I first joined the FWCC as a volunteer in 2001. Working for FWCC is interesting and challenging. Each time I counsel a client, I am determined to help her deal with her problems effectively and at the end of the day, it's fulfilling to know that I had been able to make a difference in someone's life.



NAME: Losana McGowan
POSITION: Communications Officer
JOB DESCRIPTION: Compile local and regional newsletters, liaise with partners in the Pacific region for articles, information and data for the newsletter, update FWCC website and compile and collate materials for publication.

REFLECTIONS: I joined the centre in April and am enjoying every moment of my work, as I am very passionate about issues relating to women and children's human rights. It is rather sad to see that Fiji is a signatory to the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Conventions on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and yet women and children's rights continue to be violated. I believe that if we, as human beings, respect one another despite our race, gender, colour, and creed, we will be able to live a life that is free from violence.