



# FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 4

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# STOP RAPE

**R**APE IS a subject that makes people feel uncomfortable. For women it puts forward all different types of images. Every woman in our society fears being raped - no man is allowed to ignore it. Whether they are grandmothers at home, women working in gardens or little girls on their way from school, the fear of rape is always present. This fear is always reinforced in every part of women's lives because as children they are taught to avoid rape by their movements, the way they dress and the way they behave. These words of warning are reinforced over and over again and are used to justify rape when it does occur.

One of the common myths is that rapes and other types of sexual assault are committed by strangers. Contrary to this, the FWCC statistics with its two categories of sexual offences show that most of these crimes are committed by someone who is known to the victims. In child sexual abuse cases, 27% of perpetrators of sexual offences against children between 2001 and October 2005 were the father, stepfather or grandfather, a further 22% were uncles and 11% other relatives. In the category of rape 39% of perpetrators were relatives including fathers and stepfathers. Alarming as it may seem for many, 71% of rapists are known to their victims.

Rape and sexual offences cut across all boundaries with the youngest victim reported under the age of 3 years, together with this, 65% of victims who have reported to FWCC are under the age of 18 years with the majority being between the ages of 12-16 years. Cases reported in the media indicate that women as old as 86 have been raped in Fiji.

Some of the recent trends include the high level of physical violence associated with crimes of sexual violence. There has also been a significant increase in younger sex offenders which is evident in recent media coverage.

Police statistics show that reporting of sexual offences has increased substantially when comparing the period of January to June between 2004 and 2005. Rape and attempted increased by 70%, indecent assault by 58% and defilement of girls between 13 and 16 increased by 85%. While we are encouraged by the higher levels of reporting, there are grave concerns that sexual offences are increasing throughout Fiji.

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre domestic violence statistics show that approximately 9% of victims of domestic violence experience marital rape. Women who report domestic violence are sometimes

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I have been raped by my husband



Mah! She must be joking. She is supposed to be his wife by the way



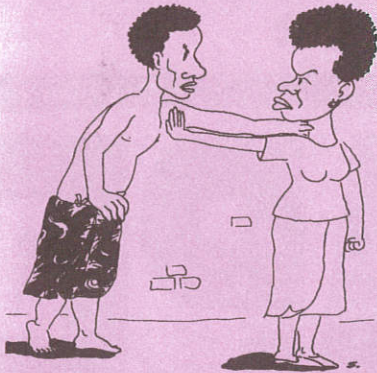
S. Malo

## How to avoid RAPE: DON'T EXIST

- Don't go out without clothes - that encourages some men**
- Don't go out with clothes - any clothes encourages some men**
- Don't go out alone at night - that encourages men**
- Don't go out alone at any time - any situation encourages some men**
- Don't go out with a female friend - some men are encouraged by numbers**
- Don't go out with a male friend - some male friends are capable of rape**
- Don't stay at home - intruders and relatives can both rape**
- Avoid childhood - some rapists are 'turned on' by little girls**
- Avoid old age - some rapists 'prefer' aged women**
- Don't have a father, grandfather, uncle or brother - these are the relatives who most often rape women**
- Don't have neighbours - these often rape women**
- Don't marry - rape is legal within marriage**
- To be quite sure - don't exist**

Source: The London Rape Crisis Centre Sexual Violence, The Reality for Women

# THE MYTHS OF RAPE



**"NO" MEANS NO!**

**FALSE IDEA**

Men rape because they are sexually frustrated.

**FACT**

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

Rape is an act of violence. Men do not rape because they desire the woman. They rape because they are angry and aggressive. They want to degrade and humiliate women.

**VAKASAMA LASU**

O ira na tagane era kucu baleta ni sega ni vakacegui rawa na nodra garo.

**KA DINA**

E levu na tagane ka ra kucu era vakawati, ra vakai tau tiko ena gauna era kucu kina. Na kucu e sega ni ka ni garogaro vakasivia. Na kucu e gaunisala ni veivakamavoataki, O ira na tagane era sega ni kucu baleta ni vinakati ira na yalewa. Era kucu baleta ni ra rarawa ka ra yalo kaukauwa ka ra dau vakalolovirataki ira na yalewa.

**गलत भावना**

पुरुष बलात्कार इस लिए करते है क्योंकि वे यौन तरीके से तनावग्रस्त होते है।

**वास्तविकता**

कई पुरुष ऐसे है जो उस समय अन्य किसी महिला का बलात्कार करते है जबकि वे खुद शादी शुदा होते है। मतलब वे अपनी पत्नी से खुश होते भी बलात्कार करते है। जिसका मतलब है कि वे यौन तरीके से बिलकूल तनाव ग्रस्त नही होते है। पुरुष बलात्कार इस लिए करते है क्योंकि वे हिंसा से भरे हुए होते है और वे महिलाओ का अपमान करने पर तुले हुए होते है।



The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre is now located at 19 Berry Road in Suva. (Entry through Desvouex Rd or Pender St). For more information call 3313 300 (24-hours)

# Calendar of Crimes

**AUGUST 2005**

- 6th Attempted rape on a 60 year old woman ended in a 4 year sentence for a 24 year old man.
- 10th A 32 year old man convicted of attempted rape of a French tourist awaits sentencing in the Lautoka Magistrates court.
- 8th A taxi driver was jailed for nine years by a judge for raping a tourist.
- 12th Man sentenced to 8 years for attempting to rape a tourist by a Ba court Magistrate.
- 12th Teacher caught having sex with an underage girl was sacked by the Ministry of Education.
- 16th Two men were remanded in custody for allegedly fondling three girls in separate incidents in Ba.
- 17th Two primary school children sexually abused by neighbor, police warn parents to keep whereabouts of their children.
- 18th 21-year-old man sent for psychiatric evaluation after attempting to rape an 8-year-old girl.
- 23rd Two youths from Kadavu were arrested and charged for rape of a 12-year-old girl.
- 23rd Bail granted for teacher who appeared in court for 22 counts of sexual assault with several students.
- 24th A villager was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for 2 counts of rape.
- 25th A father facing 11 charges of rape of his 13 year old daughter was released on bail.
- 31st A Police Officer appeared in court, accused of sexually assaulting a minor.

- 10th A 33 year old man found guilty of raping his aunt was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.
- 16th An 18 year old youth appears for one count of rape on 8 year old girl.
- 17th A father charged with two counts of rape of his stepdaughter was denied bail by Labasa court.
- 22nd An inmate convicted of attempted rape had his charge reduced to criminal intimidation by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, due to insufficient evidence.
- 22nd Thirteen year old girl raped in a mangrove swamp.
- 24th Police search for run away suspect of rape of a 30 year old woman.
- 28th A labourer jailed for six years for raping an 18 year old woman.

**SEPTEMBER 2005**

- 6th A 15 year old girl was beaten up by her mother for being raped.
- 6th Couple charged with rape of a 14 year old girl.
- 9th A teacher alleged to have molested 12 students at Lelean Memorial School was found guilty of three charges of molestation

- by the Public Service Commission.
- 13th A 33 year old man found guilty of raping his aunt was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.
- 16th An 18 year old youth appears for one count of rape on 8 year old girl.
- 17th A father charged with two counts of rape of his stepdaughter was denied bail by Labasa court.
- 22nd An inmate convicted of attempted rape had his charge reduced to criminal intimidation by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, due to insufficient evidence.
- 22nd Thirteen year old girl raped in a mangrove swamp.
- 24th Police search for run away suspect of rape of a 30 year old woman.
- 28th A labourer jailed for six years for raping an 18 year old woman.

**OCTOBER 2005**

- 7th A 23 year man was remanded in custody after he allegedly raped his nine year old stepdaughter.
- 8th Cane cutter sentenced to two years for indecently assaulting a 5 year old girl.
- 10th A teacher who was found having sex with an underage girl in the cane field was sentenced to 8 months in prison.
- 13th Uni student in custody for alleged rape of his friend's sister who is a high school student.
- 15th Man convicted of indecent assault of a woman was given 100 hours of community work.
- 19th Nine high school students appear in Labasa court charged with rape of a 15 year old girl...
- 20th \$500 bail granted for 19 year old who is alleged to have raped a 16 year old girl.
- 21st Police search for a rapist and robbers who attacked a woman and robbed her employer's residence.
- 24th Two farmers who raped a 12 year old girl on an island have been jailed for 10 years each.
- 25th A 19 year old man was given 18 months suspended sentence for defiling a 15 year old girl.

**10 years in jail for rape**

A 32-year-old man convicted of attempted rape of a French tourist awaits sentencing in the Lautoka Magistrates court.

**Students in dock for rape**

NINE high school students appeared in the Magistrates Court in Labasa yesterday, charged with the rape of a 13-year-old girl.

# The Current Law on Rape

**Section 149 of the Penal Code defines rape as:**

149 Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, or with her consent if the consent was obtained by force or by means of threat or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of bodily harm, or by means of false representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman, by impersonating her husband, is guilty of the felony termed rape.

**"Carnal Knowledge" is defined in Section 183:**

183 Whenever, upon the trial for any offence punishable under this Code, it may be necessary to prove carnal knowledge, it shall not be necessary to prove the actual emission of seed to constitute carnal knowledge, but the carnal knowledge shall be deemed complete upon proof of penetration only.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GATES REPORT:**

R(2) It is recommended that the presumption in section 14(3) of the Penal Code that a male person under the age of twelve years cannot be capable of having carnal knowledge be abolished.

R(4) It is recommended that the definition of rape should be extended to cover penetration of anus and mouth.

R(5) It is recommended that rape should include non-penile acts.

R(7) Consideration should be given to raising the maximum sentence for attempted rape from 7 years to 10 years to provide a wider span of sentencing discretion.

R(8) It is recommended that non-consent be defined and that it include non-sensual acts during marriage.

*Taken from: Reform of the Criminal Procedure Code and Penal Code, the Sexual Offences report 1999.2000; Fiji Law Reform Commission.*

**TOTAL FOR FWCC & BRANCHES  
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROFILES: 2001 - OCTOBER 2005**

PERPETRATOR	NUMBER	%
Father	28	15
Stepfather	18	10
Grandfather	4	2
Mother		
Both Parents		
Uncle	39	22
Other Relatives (brothers, stepbrothers, cousins, in-laws)	21	11
Neighbour	23	12
Other people known to the victim (friend, acquaintance, priest, teacher, landlord, tenant)	32	17
Stranger	9	5
Gang Rape	10	5
Not recorded	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100</b>

Known to the victim	165	89
Not Known	19	10
Not recorded	1	1

**TOTAL FOR FWCC & BRANCHES  
RAPE PERPETRATOR PROFILES: 2001 - OCTOBER 2005**

PERPETRATOR	NUMBER	%
Fathers, Stepfathers	18	9
Relatives	60	30
Boyfriends, acquaintances, friends	26	13
Other people known to the victim (neighbors, employers, workmates)	51	25
Stranger	32	15
Perpetrator's identity withheld by victim	-	-
Gang Rape	8	4
Not Recorded	8	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100</b>

Known to the victim	155	76
Not known to the victim	40	20
Not Recorded	8	4



**Congratulations to the Commissioner Central Inoke Devo for giving due recognition to women's contribution in the appointments of Ms. Daveta and Ms. Vakatalai. In doing so, and making the remarks he did, (Fiji Times-11/11/02) Mr. Devo has shown himself as a good role model for leadership in Fiji.**

Our hope is that other leaders in the Civil Service (and elsewhere) also make appointments without bias and on merit.



**2 years for indecently assaulting a 5 year old, 8 November, 2005**

A man found guilty of indecently assaulting a five year old girl was sentenced to only two years imprisonment.

**68 year old jailed only for 18 months, 10 November, 2005**

A 68 year old farmer was sentenced to only 18 months imprisonment for indecently assaulting an 8 year old girl.

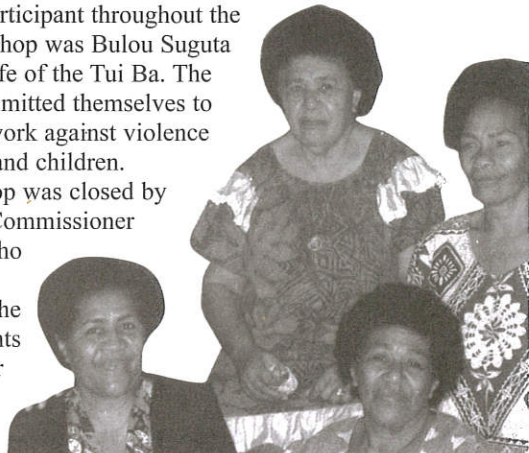
**MUDUKA  
NA KUCU  
BALAATKAR  
ROKIYE**

## Workshop at Sorokoba Village

A weeklong workshop was held at the Sorokoba village, which was attended by the women from the Bulu Tikina in Ba. The key issues covered were; gender relations, domestic violence, rape, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and basic counselling skills.

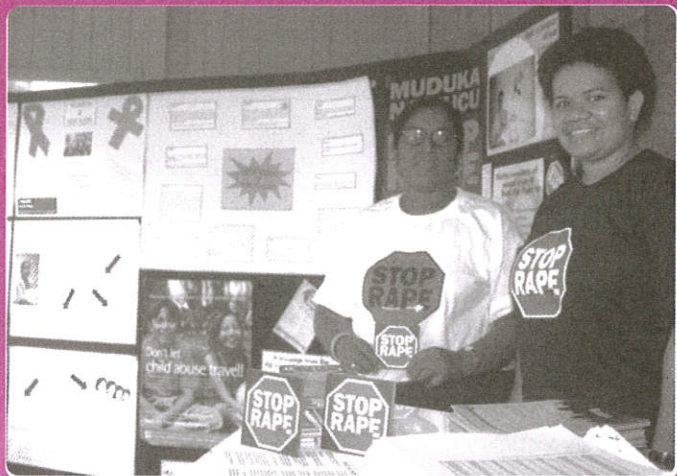
An active participant throughout the weeklong workshop was Bulou Suguta Nagagavoka, wife of the Tui Ba. The participants committed themselves to supporting the work against violence against women and children.

The workshop was closed by Human Rights Commissioner Shamima Ali, who represented the Chairperson of the Fiji Human Rights Commission, Mr Walter Rigamoto.



Back row: Bulou Suguta Nagagavoka and participants Unaisi Nalagi. Front: Ruci Koroibanuve, Arieta Sivo

**To find out more about the Stop Rape Campaign, contact the staff at FWCC.**



Yishu and Lanieta at the FWCC Open Day

## REGIONAL MOVEMENT

Work in the Pacific continues with training in other Pacific island countries upon the request of other agencies:

• 24-25 November 2005: FWCC's Coordinator, Shamima Ali was in Noumea, New Caledonia for the

launching of its 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women program.

FWCC was invited by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the New Caledonian government.

• 28 November-3 December: Shamima Ali is in the Cook Islands to conduct a male advocacy workshop. She will be assisted by the Project Officer of the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre, Sera Bogitini.



## Staff profile

**NAME:** Elenoa Fonolahi Ralulu  
**POSITION:** Counsellor (Suva Centre)



**REFLECTION:** Working for this organisation has empowered me in numerous ways, especially being aware of the problems that women in our country face. I am glad to be part of an organisation that helps empower women, educate and assist them with information of relevance. It is out there for women who need support and encouragement. I have gained awareness on the discriminatory ways that women have faced in our patriarchal society.

**NAME:** Gyatri Raj  
**POSITION:** Counsellor/Community Educator (Labasa Centre)



**REFLECTION:** I joined LWCC in March 2004. Working for LWCC is a very challenging and rewarding experience. I'm privileged to provide support and help towards elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, as women's rights are human rights. I believe that we as human beings should respect one another despite our race, gender, colour or creed, and then we will be able to live a life that is free from violence.

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forced to perform various sexual acts which are intended to degrade and humiliate them. While these women may have left the violent situation and reported the violence perpetrated against them to the police, they are highly unlikely to report the sexual violence along with physical violence. This is because there is a great deal of shame and stigma attached to such crimes.

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre believes that there are various factors contributing to the higher levels of sexual violence.

One of the major factors contributing to such crimes are the myths associated with rape. Many times the justification for rape is said to be the way victims dress or behave.

These myths create an environment which justify and encourage rape and other sexual offences. The levels of awareness have improved somewhat but from FWCC experience, services still leave a lot to be desired and often present obstacles for those reporting.

These obstacles include the longer time spent by the police department, health services, Department of Social Welfare and the judiciary in bringing about justice for victims.

It is evident from FWCC's experience that those who are enforcing the law are not aware of the legislation as it exists or

the changes that take place.

In addition, a medical examination itself is often traumatic for all rape victims as it reminds them of the incident and may sometimes reinforce the guilt that the victim may be feeling.

Cross-examinations in court are usually painful for victims and sometimes cases are delayed for months or years.

There have, however been some positive changes and the FWCC commends these changes. These are the increased awareness on the issue of rape; increased reporting; in some cases community support shown by the Turaga-ni-Koros who are now referring cases to the police rather than attempting traditional reconciliation; the changes in legislation including the removal of the law of corroboration in rape cases; recognition of rape within marriage through a court judgment and the increase in sentencing through the penal code (Penalties) (Amendment) Act 2003.

Notwithstanding these positive changes, there still remain many obstacles which contribute to the culture of rape that is present in our society.

Rape is a crime that takes over a woman or a child's mind and body. The FWCC Stop Rape Campaign is focused on creating awareness on the issue, mobilising support for victims and working towards the prevention of rape.



We'd like to hear what you have to say on the current sentences being given to offenders of rape/child sexual abuse/sexual assault.

If your letter is published in our newsletter, you will win a STOP RAPE FWCC T-shirt. Please include telephone contacts, email and mailing address with your letters.



FWCC T-shirts are available at our offices at \$10 each and come in S, M, L and XL sizes.