



FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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Let us choose our legacy

We need RAINBOWS not RAMBOS

IN response to the violence unleashed since the events of May 19 on Fiji society, FWCC has organized a campaign on non-violence called, "We need Rainbows, not Rambos". Launched by former High Court judge and Bau High Chief, Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi on November 20, the campaign was part of the 16 days of action against Violence against Women Campaign.

In any conflict situation such as we are experiencing in our country, women and children bear the brunt of the conflict and throughout history, women have been in the forefront of peace making.

So the FWCC is continuing that tradition of promoting peace, justice and non-violent resistance to human rights violations.

The "Rainbows" in the slogan symbolizes



hope, peace, joy - in short, our dreams of a good future. The "Rambo" represents senseless violence, utter lawlessness and general disintegration of society.

Ratu Joni launched "We need Rainbows not Rambos" bookmarks, posters, a television ad, bumper stickers and t-shirts.

The "Rainbows not Rambos" campaign originated from the American Women's Anti-nuclear movement and has been taken up by

Rainbows not Rambos stickers, bookmarks, and T-shirts are available from the FWCC offices at 88 Gordon Street

various groups around the world.

The campaign was also initiated out of concern for the children of Fiji who have witnessed or experienced the violence; those who have lost their fathers during the crisis and those who are watching, learning and will become future perpetrators of violence.

We do not want the children of Fiji to live with and perpetrate the violence that we see in other countries. Bookmarks, bumper stickers and posters were distributed to students in all the schools in the Suva area and some out in the rural areas.

The campaign is also a reminder to adults to choose the legacy we want to leave for the future - Rainbows or Rambos.

Police cancel peace rally permit

IN any conflict such as we have experienced in our country, women and children bear the brunt of the conflict. Throughout history, women have been in the forefront of peace making.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre had organised a peace rally where members of the public could get together and work towards genuine reconciliation.

It was to have been held on Sunday, November 26 from 12-4pm where there was to have been speeches, songs, poems and drama focussing on peace. Face-painting and other art activities had been organised for the children.

Late on the evening of Friday, November 23, months of planning and weeks of hard work by staff and volunteers at the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre in Suva was thrown away.

This was after our permit, which had been granted more than a week earlier than the Sunday, November 26th event - was revoked by the Interim Administration.

A telephone call by the Assistant Commissioner of Police/Operations Jahir Khan to

FWCC coordinator, Shamima Ali saw to the end of our plans, to stage the first ever public peace gathering since the events of May 19.

The "Women for Peace" rally had received approval from the District Officer, but the Interim Home Affairs Minister, Ratu Talemo Ratakele revoked the permit.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police/operations, Jahir Khan, the permit was revoked, "in light of new security information". However, when he first informed us of the revocation of the permit, he would not give FWCC Deputy Coordinator, Edwina Kotoisuva a proper written explanation until Sunday morning.

He told Edwina via telephone that she was to "accept his word as gospel" as the only time FWCC would get a proper written reply would be "when we arrest you and take you for investigation to



Getting ready for the peace rally which was cancelled.

CPS". (Central Police Station)

A lot of time, money and effort had gone into the planning of the event and FWCC suffered losses because of the revocation. The material losses, however, do not even come close to the suffering that our multi-racial society continues to suffer

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Taking the FWCC to the rural areas.

More workshops for Vanua Levu

TWICE in the past three months, our Senior Counsellor/Trainer and three other counsellors have had the opportunity to travel to Vanua Levu to conduct mobile counselling and community education workshops.

Salote Malo from FWCC in Suva and Bimla Singh, Rinieta Ratawa and Jokapeci Waqa from the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre went up to Cakaudrove, first to Savusavu and Tukavesi in October and then to Tunuloa towards the end of November.

On October 30, Salote flew to Savusavu town where she met with Rinieta and Bimla from Labasa and together they conducted mobile counselling for clients from the town's Health Centre.

Under the guidance of the Sister-in-Charge of the Savusavu Health Centre; Sr Hazelman, the three toured the health centre and met with medical staff.

For the two days that the trio spent in Savusavu, there was quite a significant response from the townspeople. They were able to attend to nine clients.

There was also an opportunity for community education as the trio had discussions with the police officers and shared with them the importance of the centre, our work and the issues we deal with every day.

Salote took the medical staff through the health, social and economic impacts of violence against women. Following that, FWCC materials were dropped at Khamendra Bhartiya School, in the centre of town.

On Wednesday, November 1 in the company of the Senior Divisional Medical Officer, Dr Josaiia Samuela and the health inspector, Mr Timoci Vakabua, Salote and Rinieta traveled up to Buca Bay to the Tukavesi Health Centre.

The two saw four clients there and at the same time, they moved around the community, speaking to women in the area. More FWCC materials were dropped off at the Tukavesi police station.

In the evening of the first day, more than 50 people gathered at the Tukavesi Community Hall where Salote and Rinieta spoke about the purpose of their visit.

That opportunity was used to share the work of the crisis centre with the people of Tukavesi. After Salote and Rinieta spoke, two police officers shared the legal aspects of the issues that the two counsellors addressed.

Following the success of two days of counselling and community education, requests came up from neighboring villages and communities for similar programs in their areas. The wife of a local chief extended her personal invitation to the FWCC team for more awareness programmes to be conducted in the area in the future.

So in November, Salote conducted workshops on Domestic Violence, Child Sexual Abuse and Rape.

Thursday, November 30 was the start of the first workshop, which was held at Koroivonu and was on DV, which 45 participants attended. The daughter of the late former president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, Adi Mei Kainona made the introductions at this workshop.

In the evening, eight men from the village held a grog session for the two counsellors and they used that time to discuss family law issues with them.

The next day, the workshop focused on Child Sexual Abuse and Rape. The Tui Koroivonu (village chief) actively participated during the days sessions and there were more than 50 participants present, eight of them men.

Salote said the sessions on both days of the workshops were very successful.

"A lot of personal sharing came up throughout the two-day sessions and the amount of interest generated amongst the participants were very encouraging indeed," she said.

"Requests were put forward by leaders in Vuna, Somosomo and Qamea island for similar workshops to be conducted in their respective areas."

Salote added that since returning from the Koroivonu workshop, Adi Mei Kainona has since confirmed her intention to organise workshops for villages in the Saqani/Natewa area.



Lomaivuna workshop helps change attitudes

LOMAIVUNA in Naitasiri is an area, which was once the focus of government's agricultural exports programs and is now home to about 200 hundred families who continue to farm.

Two FWCC counsellors travelled to Lomaivuna during the 16 Days Campaign to conduct a workshop for the members of the community.

FWCC's Mere Vunibaka and Labasa Women's Crisis Centre's Jokapeci Waqa were the facilitators of the workshop on Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Rape at the sector 8 hall in Lomaivuna on November 21.

According to Mere Vunibaka, who facilitated the workshop, the participants were, "a gathering of male and female multi-skilled people." There were farmers, craftsmen and domestic workers in the group of 21 people at the workshop, of which 10 were men.

The workshop had been organised by the government's assistant Womens' Interest Officer Seini Kauyaco, who is based in Nausori.

Mere said the workshop was planned with the idea of raising awareness on the issues of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Rape because there had never been a training program on the topics in Lomaivuna.

"By the end of the day, we found that the workshop had been an important process in changing people's attitudes," said Mere.

The workshop followed a very simple format, which involved talks on the issues and group exercises at the end of each session.

"There was a lot of response by the end of the day," Mere said.

"When the vote of thanks was delivered at the end of the day, the men in the group said they felt privileged to have been part of the event."

Mere said that as the men thanked the FWCC staff and the Womens' Interest Officer for organising the workshop, they admitted that Domestic Violence, Rape and Child Abused happened in their homes.

"They said that they used to think it (DV) was a private affair but now they realised that it was not just the business of the couple," Mere explained.

Quite a few of the men acknowledged that Domestic Violence, Rape and Child Abuse were wrong.

"Its just that the belief that domestic violence was a private affair made it hard for them to do something about the violence taking place in the homes," said Mere.

Mere said there were some parents of either victims or perpetrators of violence who said they would now address the issue of violence.

The participants said there was a need for more awareness programs designed for couples and they asked FWCC for help with resources and training.



October saw the FWCC conduct mobile counselling in Vanua Levu.

OUR schedule these past few months has been quite exciting. Since September when we last reported the work of the FWCC, our community education programs have been quite busy, especially with the 16 days campaign of activism against violence against women going

Late in October, on the 17th and 18th, Edwina Kotoisuva addressed almost 50 graphic design students at the Fiji Institute of Technology, centering on two topics;

- The role and services of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and
- Rape.

On the first day, there were 25 students present, 10 of them male and the rest female, but on the second day there were 12 males and 11 females.

October 20th was Children's Day and the Suva Methodist Primary School invited Edwina as Chief Guest. She spoke on Children's Rights to 1200 young children at this event.

Towards the end of October, Salote Malo, the Head Counsellor travelled to the island of Vanua Levu for Mobile counselling at Savusavu and the northern coastal areas. From October 30th

to 31st, Rinieta Ratawa and Bimla Singh of the Labasa WCC were based with her at the Savusavu Health Centre. There they conducted counselling for nine clients and had an informal talk with the staff of the health Centre and the police regarding the FWCC and what it does.

Materials on the centre and issues dealt with at the centre were distributed to Khamendra Bhartiya School in Savusavu Town.

On November 1, Rinieta and Salote travelled up to Tukavesi on Buca Bay where they conducted counselling at the Tukavesi Health Centre. They were accompanied by the Senior Divisional Medical Officer, Dr Josaia Samuela and the Health Inspector from Savusavu, Mr. Timoci Vakabua.

More than 50 people gathered that evening at the Tukavesi Community Hall for a talk on the centre and the issues affecting women. After Salote and Rinieta's presentation that evening, two police officers from the Tukavesi Police Station clarified the legal aspects of the issues

which the two counsellors spoke on.

Yishu Lal went down to the Valelevu Seventh Day Adventist Church on November 11 where she spoke about Child Sexual Abuse. She also spoke to the group about ways and means that the problem of Child Sexual Abuse could be addressed.

On November 21, rural community education took place as Mere Vunibaka and Jokapeci Waqa, who was on attachment with us from the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre, paid a visit to the farming community of Lomaivuna in Naitasiri. While there, Jokapeci acted as observer while Mere conducted a workshop on Domestic Violence, Rape and Child Abuse. She also spoke about the role of FWCC and the services available at the centre. There were 21 participants, almost half of which were men.

The day after on November 22, Salote, travelled to Tailevu, to Kaba Island where she conducted workshops with participants from the villages of Dromuna and Vatani. The workshops were on Domestic Violence and Family Law.

On November 30 to December 1, Salote was again in Vanua Levu at the village of Koroivonu in Tunuloa, Cakaudrove. She conducted workshops with 50 men and women of the village on Domestic Violence, Child Sexual Abuse and Rape.

While that was happening in the North, Mere and Alumita were conducting a similar two-day workshop with members of the Catholic Women's League in Suva at the Raiwaqa Catholic Parish. This workshop was part of the "Grassroots Women Community Peer Exchange Programme" and it involved participants from seven parishes here in Fiji as well as from Papua New Guinea. The topics covered during the two days were Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Rape.

On December 1, Yishu Lal travelled down to Navua to speak to women at Nakaulevu Mothers Club about Domestic Violence.

On December 5, Yishu and Shobna Devi travelled down to Navua again to speak to the members of the Naitata Women's Club. The two counsellors spoke on Domestic Violence.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Stop selling toys of violence

IN a letter to major toy stores, the FWCC said, "Our children have never been exposed to as much violence as they have in the past few months and in our society as a whole there is an increased level of tolerance and acceptance of violence."

FWCC coordinator, Shamima Ali told toy store owners that our children could grow up accepting such violence and; "in turn they are likely to become perpetrators of violence."

She pleaded with the storeowners in the letter to them saying that the cycle of violence can be stopped and toy stores can be a part of this effort by refraining from selling violent toys during the Christmas season.

These are toys such as knives, guns, grenades and other replicas of war and violence.

FWCC told the store owners that the community could not afford to let children glamourise and imitate the violence which they might have witnessed during the crisis.

Police cancel peace rally permit

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when genuine peace initiatives get 'nipped in the bud'.

Following the revocation, FWCC organized a press conference to explain to the public why the rally did not take place and to express our disappointment at the revocation of the permit.

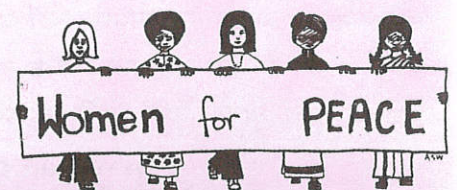
A lot of our disappointment was at the manner in which the Police handled the matter and a formal complaint was made to the police on that.

After the press conference, some FWCC staff made their way down to the Ratu Sukuna Park where the rally was to have been held and waited there for members of the public who had not heard of the cancellation.

Although, the afternoon did not turn out the way it had been planned, people turned up anyway to have lunch with FWCC staff and share aspirations for peace.

FWCC will continue to apply for permission to organize gatherings such as the planned "Women for Peace" rally because we believe that peace is something everyone in Fiji needs desperately.

It is also our belief that for any genuine moves towards reconciliation to take place, efforts must be based on the principles of tolerance, non-violence, justice and equality.



FWCC launches Rainbows not Rambos campaign

E kauwai na FWCC ki na veitovo se valavala kaukauwa, ka mai yavalata na noda vanua kei na veitikotiko, me tekivu mai na 19 Me. Keitou sa vakarautaka gona kina e so na tuvatuva ka vunautaki kina na veika ka sega kina na I tovo kaukauwa. Oqo, e tiki tiko ga ni neitou campaign vakayabaki ka dau 16 tiko na siga na kena dede.

Ni dua na vanua e kunei kina na duidui kei na sega ni duavata me vaka eda kila ni a tara na noda vanua, eda raica, ni kena revurevu, e tara vakalevu na nodra bula na marama kei na gone. Ia, ena I tukutuku talega ni veigauna sa oti, e laurai, ni sai ira sara talega na marama, era dau liu ena nodra vakaitavi-taki ira ena cacakaka ni kena sagai na veivakaduavata-taki.

Okoya gona ena yabaki oqo, keitou na mai tomana tikoga kina, na I vakarau oqori, ena kena laveti cake tikoga na bula sautu, na dina, na dodonu kei na kena muri na sala malugu

ena kena saqati na voroki ni dodonu ni veitamata yadudua.

Na "Rainbows not Rambos" campaign oqo, e a tekivutaki mai vei ira na lewe ni soqosoqo ni marama mai Merika ka ra saqata na vakatovototaki ni yaragi niukilia(nuclear). Era sa qai mai taura e muri ka vakayagataka na ulutaga oqo, e vuqa na veimata soqosoqo ena veiyasai vuravura tale e so.

Na "Rainbow" se drodrolagi e I vakaraitaki/vakatakilakila ni nuinui, bula sautu kei na marau - vakaraitaka tiko na drodrolagi oqo na noda veitatadra yadudua.

Na "Rambo" (yaloyalo yavala) ka vakaraitaki ni veivakamavoataki, na beci kei na kena basuki na lawa, vata kei na duidui se veisei ka tara na bula kei na I tikotiko raraba.

E vakayavutaki tale tikoga na campaign oqo, ena neitou kauwaitaka na I soqosoqo, na nodra bula na luvei Viti ena gauna e daidai.

E so vei ira na gone oqo, e ka ni rarawa, ni mai kau tani kina vakadua na bula ni nodra I tubutubu turaga, e vuqa era raica se sarava sara tu ga na veitovo kaukauwa ka vakayacori ka ra sa na vuli se tomitomi saraga na veika rerevaki era rawa ni vakaitavi-taki ira kina, ena veisiga

ni mataka.

Eda na sega ni vinakata mera tubu cake na luve I Viti me ra I vakaraitaki bula tu ni vakayaco I tovo kaukauwa - me vaka eda raica ni yaco tu ena so na veiyasa I vuravura tale e so.

Na I naki talega ni campaign oqo, sai koya meda na nanuma tiko na I tubutubu, ni noda I valavala ena gauna oqo, eda sa bucina sara tiko-ga kina na nodra I tovo ni rai na luveda ena gauna mai muri.

Staff movements

OCTOBER 11 saw Sarah Pene, the Information and Research Officer flying out to Vanuatu for three weeks to work with the staff of the Vanuatu Women's Centre in Port Vila. While in Vila, she assisted in the preparation of VWC's progress report for AUSAID. It was in our role as project manager for the VWC.

Sarah also conducted computer skills training with VWC staff and in the third week worked with staff of Sanma Counselling Centre in Luganville.

Edwina also travelled to Vanuatu to make a presentation at the NGO's and Donors capacity building meeting from November 6-9.

On November 11, Sarah left for South Africa for a follow up workshop to one which was held in the same place in May of this year. The workshop involved the synthesis of several different country reports on strategies used to liberate abortion policies and improve access to abortion services.

Shamima travelled to Brisbane, Australia on Tuesday, November 21 for a conference on "Futures of South Pacific Peoples".

Adelle Khan made trips to the Cook Islands and Samoa in November, in her role as regional administrator.

In the Cook Islands she was hosted by the Punanga Tauturu Incorporated (PTI), an NGO which was incorporated in 1994 after increasing incidences of domestic violence. She held meetings with NGO's and with relevant government departments. Her visit was part of our ongoing effort towards strengthening regional ties and also part of several preliminary meetings leading up to the Regional Meeting to be held here (Fiji) in February, 2001.

On November 21, she left for Samoa and was hosted by the Mapusaga O Aiga (Family Haven) Staff. Mapusaga O Aiga is an NGO which deals with Violence Against Women and Children, doing work very similar to FWCC. MOA staff set Adelle up for meetings with government officers and members of the judiciary as well as members of the media.

On December 7, Shamima left for Vanuatu to present at their first ever National Conference on Domestic Violence. Organized by the Vanuatu Women's Centre, the conference brought together counsellors, health workers and members of the VWC island committees. She returned to Fiji on December 14.

रेम्बोस नहीं बल्कि रईन्बोस अभियान

उन्नीस मई वाली घटना को मद्ध नज़र रख कर फीजी विमन्स काइसिस सेन्टर ने अहिंसा के पुत एक अभियान जारी किया है कि हमें फीजी रेम्बोस नहीं बल्कि रईन्बोस की ज़रूरत है।

सेन्टर का ये अभियान महिलाओं पर हो रहे अत्याचार को ध्यान में रखकर हर वर्ष की तरह सोलाह दिनों में से एक है।

जब भी कभी लड़ाई होती है जैसे कि हमारे देश में हो रही है, महिलाएँ और बच्चे हमेशा इसका शिकार होते हैं तथा इतिहास के अनुसार महिलाएँ ही शांति स्थापित करने में आगे होती हैं।

मानव अधिकार को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस साल फीजी विमन्स काइसिस सेन्टर शांति, न्याय तथा अहिंसा को बढ़ावा देने की कोशिश जारी रखे हुए हैं। रेम्बोस नहीं बल्कि रईन्बोस अभियान की शुरुआत अमरीकी विमन्स एन्टी न्यूक्लीया संस्था द्वारा की गई है तथा इसे विश्व के कई संस्थाओं द्वारा अपनाया गया है।

रईन्बोस- आशा, शांति, तथा खुशी का प्रतीक है यानि हमारे सपने।

रेम्बोस का मतलब है लड़ाई, कानून न होना तथा पूरे समाज में विभाजन। अभियान की बच्चों को ध्यान में रख कर भी जारी किया गया है। बच्चे जिन्होंने बहुत कुछ देखा जैसे कि लड़ाई, अपने पिता को खोना, और जो देख रहे हैं वही बड़े हो कर लड़ाई में हिस्सा लेंगे।

हम नहीं चाहते कि हमारे देश के बच्चे लड़ाई में शामिल ही जैसा कि अन्य देशों में होता है। अभियान बड़े लोगों को याद दिलाता है कि हम भविष्य में किस तरह का चुनाव करना चाहते हैं- रेम्बोस नहीं बल्कि रईन्बोस।

अभियान का विमोचन, सोमवार बीस नवम्बर को बेजाया इन पर भूतपूर्व जज तथा बाउ के उच्च सामन्त रातु चोनी मंड्राईवीवी द्वारा किया गया था।

Ba Women's Crisis Centre: Nukudrala Street. PO Box 3127, Ba. Phone: (679) 670 466.

Lautoka Women's Crisis Centre: 11 Yawini Road. PO Box 5783, Lautoka. Phone: (679) 650 500.

Labasa Women's Crisis Centre: Bayly House, Siberia Road. PO Box 319, Labasa. Phone: (679) 814 609.