



FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

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Men can make a difference

Violence against women is a serious problem in Fiji. According to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre National Domestic Violence Research, 66 percent of the women surveyed had experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives and 96 percent of the victims of sexual assault were female. 95 percent of the perpetrators of domestic violence were male and all the perpetrators of sexual assault were male.

Much is being done for the victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape, however, the men are not targeted for their behaviour.

Men can play a crucial role in stopping the violence against women. Men are already an integral part of society that supports and interacts with families dealing with violence. They are the majority of judges, police officers and doctors who work with families in crisis.

Men are also family members, relatives, friends and neighbours of male perpetrators of violence. And yet, it is sometimes hard for men to join the fight against violence towards women. Many believe it to be a women's issue but violence against women is everyone's concern.

Men are critical to violence prevention

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: IT'S AGAINST ALL THE RULES

efforts because men are more likely to listen to other men. Here are a few ways men can make a difference:

- Be role models to other men. Young men are uniquely positioned to reach out to other young men who are violent at home, to let them know: "You need help and I want to help you. Your behaviour is not acceptable."
- Take a vocal stand against violence towards women. Men speaking out can have a powerful effect in helping change social norms that support and perpetuate violence.
- Reach out to a family where domestic violence is present. Just offering to listen and acknowledging what is going on helps chip away the walls that surrounds and isolates fam-

ilies living with abuse.

• Challenge sexist language and jokes that degrades women. Sexist jokes and language helps create a climate where forms of violence and abuse becomes acceptable.

• Look within yourself. If you've ever been physically violent against a woman, if you've committed sexual assault, if you've hit, pushed, threatened or kicked your spouse or girlfriend, then you have been part of the problem. If this happened long ago admit what you did was wrong and make amends if possible. However, if your violent behaviour has any chance of continuing then you urgently need to get help to determine the root of your problem. Do not wait till it happens again - Act now!

You hurt her ... they cry too

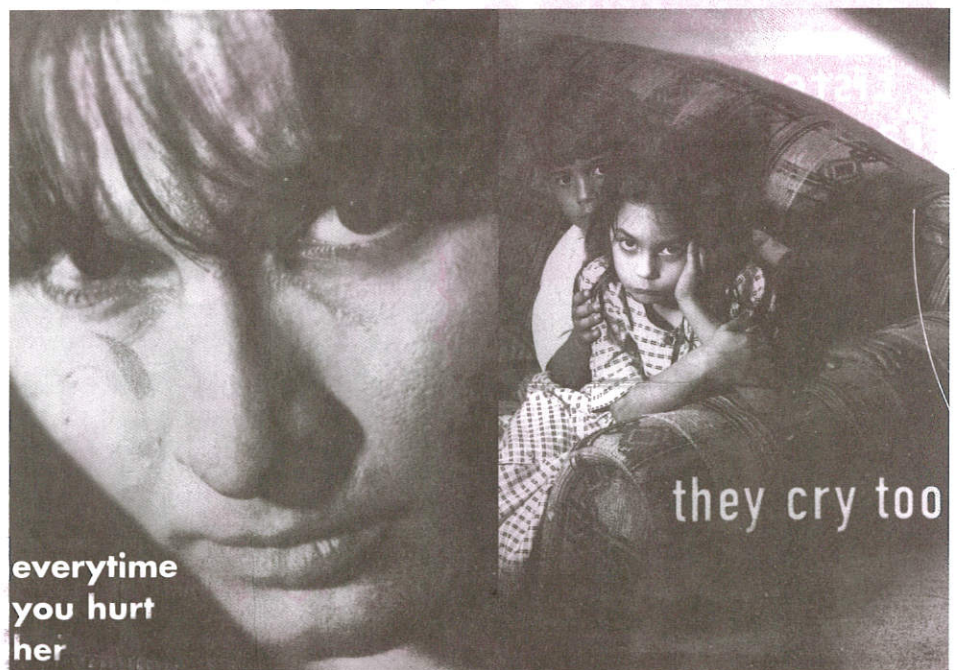
Children who witness domestic violence tend to be more aggressive. Research on children witnessing domestic violence has shown these children to have very low self-esteem and are unable to perform well in their schoolwork.

These children are also prone to depression and are often angry and temperamental. It has also been suggested in many studies that children who witness violence may also learn to use it.

In general, studies have shown that adolescent boys who have lived in violent homes believed that 'acting aggressively enhanced one's reputation or self-image'. It is also suggested that children who witnessed domestic violence were more likely to be absent from school.

While it is usual for boys who have witnessed domestic violence to be more hostile and aggressive, girls tend to be depressed.

(Adapted from Article: Problems Associated with Children's Witnessing of Domestic Violence by Jeffrey L. Edleson)





Find out the Facts about Domestic Violence

FALSE IDEA: Offenders cannot control their violence

FACT: Less than half of wife batterers also assault other people outside the home. Most of them can control their violence with others but they choose to be violent with their wives.

X VAKASAMA LASU

Ko ira na dau veimoku, sega ni tarova rawa na nodra cudru.

KA DINA

E laurai ni levu na tagane era dau mokuti watidra, era rawa ni tarova na nodra cudru ke vakacudru ira e dua tani talei. Era dau mokuti watidra ga.

गलत धारणा

हिंसावादी लोग अपने गुस्से को रोक नहीं सकते हैं

वास्तविकता

जो पुरुष अपने घर में अपनी पत्नी पर अत्याचार करते हैं वे घर से बाहर अन्य लोगों से भी इसी तरह व्यावाहार करते हैं. लेकिन इन में से कुछ पुरुष अन्य लोगों के साथ होते हैं तो वे अपने गुस्से को काबू में रखते हैं लेकिन अपनी पत्नी के साथ रह कर गुस्सा करना उनकी अपनी चुनौती होती है.

Question Sexism

A social relationship in which males have authority over females. It is behavior, language and actions that portray women as inferior. Sexism reflects a rising social awareness of the oppression suffered by women in that it limits, exploits and demeans women. It can also be said to stereotype people by their sex.

In many advertisements the female character is the happy mother, a devoted wife or the one out to discover the best cleaning agent. Either that or women are portrayed as sexual creatures- they help sell men's clothing, cars, telephones and sporting gear.

Sexist jokes, advertisements and language create an environment of violence and abuse. Words that degrade women reflect a society that places women in a second class position.

Question sexism and commit yourself to ending oppression in all forms.

Adapted from A Feminist Dictionary by Ramarae C. & Treichler P.

The Violence Continues . . .

OCTOBER

2 Oct- A farmer was charged with raping a 32-year-old pregnant woman.

4 Oct- A 26-year-old farmer allegedly had sex with a 16-year-old student. He was accused of abducting his teenage neighbour and having sex with her.

4 Oct- A Nadi student was remanded in custody for allegedly attempting to rape a 13-year fellow villager.

4 Oct- A police officer allegedly raped his house-help in his quarters. Investigations are currently underway.

8 Oct- A woman was raped by a close relative and was admitted at CWM.

9 Oct- A youth was arrested in Nadi and questioned over the rape of a secondary school student. A 22-year-old unemployed man was also arrested in relation to the case.

10 Oct- A primary school Headteacher was charged with indecently annoying a female. The incident took place at a school canteen where the accused approached the victim, a class six student, and tried to molest her.

10 Oct- A 22-year-old man was granted bail after appearing in court on charges of abducting and defiling a 14-year-old student. It was alleged that the man had abducted the girl and taken her to Sigatoka where he defiled her.

11 Oct- A 26-year-old man pleaded guilty to raping a 9-year-old school girl. He had lured the girl to his home with the promise of sweets and raped her.

18 Oct- A man raped his 12-year-old relative and was imprisoned for 5 years, with 5 strokes of the cane.

19 Oct- A 20-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a man during a party.

19 Oct- A 22-year-old labourer was arrested for attempting to rape a 13-year-old girl.

19 Oct- Man pleaded guilty in court to defiling a 14-year-old girl. The case was adjourned to October 31st 2001.

21 Oct- A 38-year-old man was accused of sexually assaulting his 69-year-old mother.

23 Oct- A 28-year old man who raped a 15 year old girl was remanded in custody for not turning up in court.

24 Oct- The case of a man who allegedly raped a 7-year old girl was adjourned because the accused failed to turn up in court.

28 Oct- A man was arrested for allegedly raping a woman in a public toilet. The accused had served a 4-year sentence in 1984 for attempted rape and a 5-year sentence for rape in 1987.

NOVEMBER

2 Nov- Saula Manawu 21, of Navakaula Cakaudrove was accused of defiling a Third form student on 2 occasions.

2 Nov- 6 boys between the ages of 9 to 17 are under police investigation for their alleged sexual involvement with a 10-year old girl for over a year.

3 Nov- A 47-year old man was charged with 2 counts of attempted rape and 1 count of indecently annoying a girl.

4 Nov- 28-year-old man pleaded guilty in court for defiling a 14-year old girl. The incident took place on September 26.

5 Nov- Police charged a taxi driver who abducted and raped a 13-year old girl.

8 Nov- A 36-year old man was charged with indecently assaulting a 5-year old girl

9 Nov- 9 men pleaded guilty to raping a 12-year old girl. The ages of the accused ranged from 16 to 40 years.

9 Nov- Labasa police detained a man suspected of overpowering women by spraying chemicals on them before robbing and sexually assaulting them.

13 Nov- Police are investigating alleged sexual activity between a teacher and students at a Taveuni primary school. The incident was reported by a parent who caught the teacher in a sexual act with his son.

15 Nov- A 19-year old was gang-raped by 3 of her fellow villagers during a drinking party. The police arrested 2 suspects and are in search of the third.

15 Nov- A woman claims that a driver of the minibus in which she was travelling tried to rape her after taking her to a secluded area.

15 Nov- A farmer was sentenced for two years for defiling a 13-year-old.

Lawman awaits fate after rape inquiry

By NIKAN AU
The fate of a police officer who allegedly raped a female house-help is expected to be decided last week.

Six boys have sex with poor girl, 10

Police investigate

Held for raping mother

Court rejects bail application on seriousness of offence

Police investigate

Say No to War

It can seem daunting to build an anti-war movement but it is worth pointing out that this anti-war movement is developing fast- in fact people are being pulled on to the streets, across the country and across the globe.

Thousands of people all over the world are rising to demand an end to the revenge on innocent people. The principles of these protests include: mourn the victims and condemn the attacks; oppose all racial and religious discrimination; no support for the war; and for global peace.

Women's movements all over the world have realised how wars affect women and children in conflict situations.

Millions of women and very young girls have been raped in conflict zones. Women have been forcibly impregnated to bear the 'enemies' children. Women and children are also forced into prostitution and as the usual bread-earners, the men are either at war or dead, the women and children are forced in to very vulnerable situations.

By 'eliminating a network of terrorists' a region cannot be stabilised. There would be more war, bombing and assassinations that will only create more violence, death and economic crisis.

It seems that many of us believe that we are the voices of peace, that there are alternatives to war and violence. We can break the cycle and have no more victims.



If we could hear one another's prayers, it would relieve God of a great burden

Are you being abused?

Many women live in an abusive relationship. There are different kinds of abuse and not every woman experiences them all. An abusive relationship can be very destructive and it can be emotional and physical. Here are some indications of an abusive relationship:

Does he monitor your movement and demand explanations for every movement you make? He is rude to your friends and accuses you of having affairs. He doesn't like you making new friends and is constantly criticizing you. You are always edgy because he has mood swings and he is easily angered if drunk. He always wants to know how you spend money and there are quarrels over financial matters. He discourages you from getting a paid job. He pressures you for sex.

He has hit or threatened to hit you. He throws/breaks things and you have felt that you are in danger.

Are you living in an abusive relationship?



Control your anger

In anger have you abused or assaulted your wife? At a party have you ended up beating up your best friend?

There are ways in which you can control your anger when in a conflict situation e.g. having an argument with your spouse.

HERE ARE A FEW STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MANAGE YOUR ANGER.

- Recognize the physiological cues e.g. increased heart rate and breathing, muscle tension, stomach flutters, sweaty palms, immobility.
- Immediately tell yourself to "STOP".
- Step back from the situation Take a few slow deep breaths and relax the body.
- TIME OUT - Go away and do a relaxation exercise or focus on an absorbing task or engage in physical

exercise. Use this time to 'cool down'. From this point decide on an action; whether you want to address the problem or to leave it there.

- If you prefer an action that is to go back and deal with the problem then the first step here is to remove irrational beliefs. For e.g. irrational beliefs such as "I must win" or 'she has no right to speak to me like that'.
- Be assertive. Constructive confrontation requires assertive rather than aggressive behaviour. An assertive statement would be "I feel frustrated when you interrupt me in the middle of a sentence."
- Listen to what the other person is saying and try to see the situation from their point of view.
- Look for a solution rather than aiming to win.

Say Yes for Children

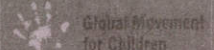
www.globalmovementforchildren.org

United Nations Children's Fund

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Court accepts Battered Woman Syndrome

Prabha Wati, 52, burnt her husband to death after 35 years of marriage. During mitigation the court was told of the years of sexual torture and abuse that she had been subjected to during her years of marriage.

She had been ill-treated by her husband who thought that she had failed him by having daughters instead of sons. He used to force her to have sex and had extra-marital affairs, as a result of which she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease from him.

On the day of the incident her husband had called her 'old and lame' when she had refused to have sex with him. He had verbally abused her and had continued with his drinking party with friends.

She was physically sick and disabled with diabetes, high blood pressure and a weakened right side as a result of a stroke.

While handing a two-year suspended sen-

tence, Justice Jayant Prakash said that it was a sad reflection of our male oriented society that domestic violence was not seen as the terror it is in many homes in Fiji.

Prabha Wati was charged with murder and she remained in remand for about two and a half years. Her charge was later reduced to manslaughter.

According to Doctor Shish Ram Narayan, the medical superintendent of the St. Giles Hospital, Wati had been exposed to exceptional mental and physical stress.

"Battered Woman Syndrome can be linked to Wati as she had been abused for long, had reconciled many times and had reached an acute explosion stage," he said

Justice Jayant Prakash may be the first judge in Fiji to recognise Battered Woman

Syndrome. The Battered Woman Syndrome, which is a rare but recognised affliction in that a abused person continues to live with her partner despite regular ill-treatment, was raised as the central issue of the defence case.

"Women from all social groups can be victims of domestic violence and contrary to what people believe women do not remain in violent relationships because they like being beaten," said Shamima Ali, the Coordinator of Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

If there were proper support mechanisms in place for women who are battered the victims would not resort to such drastic measures.

"Women remain because of fear of reprimand and many women are threatened with more violence if they leave. There are also many women who have no where else to go," she said.

Prabha Wati now lives with her daughter.

Woman tells why she burnt husband to death 'Sex became torture'

by SEMA SHARMA
SEMI-PARALYSED woman who burnt her husband to death said she had sex with him for an hour for three days after the police interview, after the killing. Prabha Wati, 52, said she had sex with her husband for three days after the killing.

she would do something to end the torture. "I also told my daughter to leave the house as I wanted to do something to him," the statement said. "After both left I got a gallon of kerosene from the outside kitchen and poured it on the rug where he was sitting. I lit it and he was burnt. He died at 8.30am, mixed a bath of poison and started drinking on the porch."

Wife basher under investigation

The Internal Affairs Department is currently looking after a complaint about a senior police officer assaulting his wife in a domestic dispute. Director of Complaints, reveal that the senior-ranking officer, whose name was withheld would be interviewed as soon as investigations are completed. "The process should not take long."

Hospital from injuries. tained. Meanwhile, the Women's Crisis Centre called on the suspension of the officer in the wake of the incident.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 3,
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 5,
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Listen to us on radio every week

You can listen to FWCC staff on the radio talking about the work of the Crisis Centre and the issues that we deal with. These radio programs are available in English, Fijian and Hindi on the the Bula Network.

- Fijian: 3.15 pm on Bula 102 FM Every second Sunday
- English: 9.30am on Bula 100.4 FM Every second Tuesday, starting 30th January
- Hindi: 11.15am on Radio Fiji 2 Every second Thursday

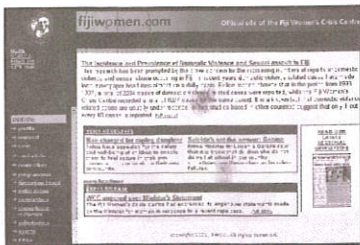
Anti-war T-shirts on Sale



Adults - XXL, XL, M, S - \$10.00
Childrens - \$6.00

Visit the new fijiwomen.com

Our website, www.fijiwomen.com now has some new features. There is a daily news update featuring the main news story involving women. News from around the region will also be available.



So click on www.fijiwomen.com. Get informed and get involved!

Letters to the editor

To Fiji Anti War Movement

There is no doubt our struggle and our fight for peace continues-endlessly. And for this we will need no permit. The unfortunate halt to the Peace March is disappointing but no so to dampen our hopes of another march in the near future. We will walk in unison and spread the news of peace and we will reach out to others to join us.

As the sun continues to shine and as rain does trickle down, the work in pursuing peace becomes stronger and soon we will rid the world of war, terror and destruction.

Peace does not come from the barrel of the gun, nor the explosion of the bomb but

from the heart of the individual who makes an effort to create peace through words and actions.

Our vision is that someday, if not today, the work for peace will prevail in our homes, in societies and across the globe, where each life is considered invaluable, not to be wasted or treated as garbage. It will be where we are free to walk the streets without the fear of harassment or abuse of any kind.

Best wishes and luck in your endeavor for peace

Jacque Koroivulaono and friends
Students of St. Joseph's Secondary School,