



FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 4

April 2002

Soldiers attend workshop

The Fiji Military Forces for the first time organised a two-week workshop with FWCC on domestic violence, rape, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and basic counselling skills.

The aim of the workshop was to allow the participants to reassess their perspectives on problem of violence against women and children and in so doing, it was hoped they would acquire the knowledge, skills and strategies needed to deal with these issues. For the military, the objective was to better deal with the issues within its ranks either in the line of duty or with military families and served as a means of assisting officers to establish personal goals in the elimination of violence against women.

Twenty-two army personnel, from senior non-commissioned officers to major-level officers came from the army's centres in Suva, Lautoka, Nadi, Labasa and Nasinu.

Shamima Ali and Salote Malo of FWCC facilitated the workshop and speakers included Virisila Baudromo of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement and FWCC counsellors.



Military participants with Shamima and Salote of FWCC.

On behalf of the RFMF Commander, Chief of Staff LT. Col. Samuela Raduva thanked the FWCC for their tireless efforts in educating the public on the principles of good moral living. He further revealed that such a workshop had never been traditional within the military despite the importance of the issue but that it was a good beginning. He reminded the officers that now they could not turn around and condone the wrongs of society as they are aware of the truth and urged them to concen-

trate on the strength of their family members. His message was clear: soldiers have to show respect if they want the respect of others. "At home you are not a soldier. You are a husband to your wife, father to your children and a son to your parents so you have to learn to adapt into the family," he explained.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants developed a Plan of Action for the roles they pledged to play in eliminating violence against women and children.

Candlelight Vigil marks IWD

In honour of International Women's Day, FWCC held a candlelight vigil on 7th March for the survivors of sexual assault and rape. With the alarming rise in reports of sexual assaults, women and girls no longer feel safe on Fiji's streets or even in their homes.

The vigil was organised in lieu of the annual *Reclaim the Night* march and brought women and men together to share their thoughts, songs, poems and prayers. The event attracted a large gathering and there was a significant presence of young men, who shall be the husbands and fathers of the future.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, a panel discussion was held at the Don Bradman Hall at the Australian High Commission, on the topic of *Sexual Assault*

and Marital Rape. The speakers were:

- Makereta Waqavonovono (Director-Legal Aid & Former Magistrate)
- Joan Tofaeono (Coordinator-WEAVERS)
- Raijeli Vasakula (Fiji Law Reform Commission)
- Edwina Kotoisuva (Fiji Women's Crisis Centre)
- Chair: Devanesh Sharma (Lawyer and FWCC Trustee)

Joan Tofaeono spoke of how the issue of marital rape is a non-issue for the Church, but that the church is opposed to a spouse asserting superiority in marriage because in the eyes of God, both partners are equal in status. Their union is a life-long commitment and if sex is forced onto a spouse, then there is no marriage.

• Turn to page 2



Sister Theresa Naidu lights a candle for survivors of sexual assault



THE FACTS ABOUT MARITAL RAPE

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 woman's will, it is rape.

Vakasama Lasu: E sega wili me kisi ni kucu ke veiyacovi kei watina o tagane ena nona vakasaurarataki koya ena loma ni nodrau vakamau.

Ka Dina: E dau yaco vakawasoma na kucu ena bula vakawati. E sega ga ni okati me kucu se cala vakalawa e Viti baleta ni rau veiyacovi tiko ena loma ni bai ni vakawati.

गलत धारणा

शादीशुदा महिला के साथ बलात्कार नहीं होता।

सच्चाई

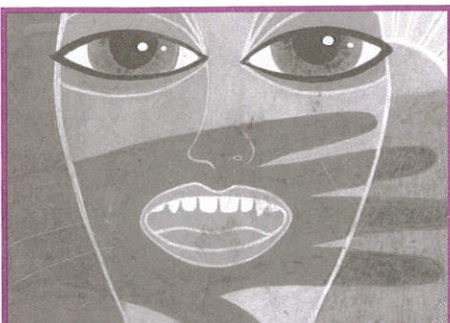
विवाहित जिंदगी में बलात्कार मामूली बात है। हमारा कानून इसे मान्यता नहीं देता पर यह गम्भीर अपराध है और एक महिला की इच्छा के विरुद्ध है। यह बलात्कार है।

RAPE FACTS IN FIJI

- 93% of perpetrators are known to the victim
- Incest is a well hidden crime and there is often a conspiracy of silence

Petition to President

A delegation of concerned mothers and daughters, led by Susana Evening of the Catholic Women's League, presented a petition to the President, Ratu Josefa Iloilo at Government House on Thursday 7th March, calling for stricter legislation and penalties for rape and other sexual crimes. In response, the President said he would hand the document to the Attorney General for legal advice. He stated that the timing of the delegation was most appropriate, as there had been a dramatic increase in sexually related crimes in Fiji. - *Daily Post* (7/02/002)



Speak out against sexual assault



The four panelists asserting Marital Rape to be a crime.

Vigil marks IWD

● From page 1

Makereta Waqavonovono spoke of the urgent need for an amendment to rape sentences, especially in Fiji's Magistrate's courts, and that crimes of a sexual nature must be heard in the High court. She also raised concerns about the contents of cross-examination procedures, whereby rape victims are made to answer often irrelevant questions. She related that video conferencing and screening is used in Australia and New Zealand for rape cases but that Fiji was not yet ready for such technological amenities.

Raijeli Vasakula spoke on the work of the Law Reform Commission, whereby a panel went around the country to collect the contributions of people for consideration when amendments are drafted for existing rape

laws. She noted that Fiji's current rape laws does not recognise rape with the use of objects and marital rape is not regarded as a crime.

Edwina Kotoisuva revealed the effects of marital rape upon the victim and her family and highlighted the many gaps that exist in our rape laws. She cited several research works conducted in Fiji and abroad which better explained the dynamics of marital rape.

Devanesh Sharma, the Chair of the panel discussion, spoke of the laws on rape and made particular mention of the post-trial neglect many victims faced. He also detailed the traumatic cross-examination process, where the rights of the victim are held in scant regard and stressed the need for a more victim-friendly trial process.



The Directors of Social Welfare (Left) and Fiji Law Reform Commission (Middle), and the Permanent Secretary for Women (Right) at the panel discussion.

Sexual Harassment on the agenda

A policy on sexual harassment has recently become a topic of discussion for the staff of Trend West in Denarau, Nadi. In February, the management of Trendwest extended an invitation to FWCC to conduct three sessions for its staff on the issue of sexual harassment.

"This is the first time that such an interest has been shown whereby the management sets aside an entire day for themselves and their staff to look seriously at the issue of sexual harassment and on developing a policy for it within the workplace," said Shamima Ali, who conducted the session. "This level of commitment is desirable from management teams in the workforce of Fiji," she stressed.

"While some organisations in Fiji may have a policy which states that sexual harassment will not be tolerated, FWCC has found that very few have a system in place for addressing these complaints. Making these policies workable is what is important," said Ali.

The sessions were enlightening for all the participants and a special request was made for an early morning seminar for ancillary staff prior to the FWCC team's return to Suva.



Shamima Ali addressing staff and management of Trendwest.

Minister promises action

Labour Minister Kenneth Zinck wants all organisations to have a no-sexual harassment policy as part of a code of ethics in their office and that management teams take responsibility in educating workers on the issue.

He said that his Ministry is considering ways in which to include sexual harassment laws in the Industrial Relations Bill. "We are

talking about sexual harassment in the work place and I feel that it is an OHS issue. If it falls under my jurisdiction, I will definitely treat it as an OHS issue."

The FWCC hopes that it becomes a living document that is adhered to by all management teams.

- Daily Post (30/1/002)

Child Abuse concern

The sexual abuse of children has become a serious cause for concern for many people and the issue was constantly raised by people on the islands of Koro and Gau during FWCC's recent community outreach visits.

From 11-15 February, two of FWCC's staff travelled throughout the island of Gau raising awareness on the issue of violence against women and children and related laws, with their talks and workshops generating a lot of discussion.

"The people were very interested and they wanted to learn more. There was a great deal of concern about the issue of child sexual abuse," said Alumita Tuikenatabua, a counsellor at FWCC. "These discussions made the long walks to some locations worthwhile," said added.

Two other FWCC staff experienced similar responses on the island of Koro, where they spent a week. "We went from villages to schools and there was a thirst for information," said Mere Vunibaka, a counsellor at FWCC. "We would leave early in the morning and return in the evenings, giving talks and sharing information," she revealed.

Ilisapeci Maria, who hails from the island of Koro, also travelled with Vunibaka and was proud to be a part of the team sharing information. "I was proud to be imparting information on issues of concern with my peers, relatives and friends from my home island," she said.

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre has been travelling to villages and islands for the past 10 years and has recently begun to increase its community outreach engagements.



Vione District School, Gau.



Vione Village, Gau.

Crisis Centre Community Contact

The counsellors and other staff of FWCC regularly conduct community education programmes, mobile counselling and inter-agency training. Our local communities and FWCC equal-

ly initiate educational programmes. Whilst there is a general recognition and realization of crimes against women and children, many people are still not aware of the dynamics of these crimes, such

as rape, child abuse and domestic violence.

Our audience comprise of women, men and children, and our venues include villages, schools, churches and army barracks.

January:

SAVUSAVU:

- 28th - URATA VILLAGE: Child Sexual Abuse
- 29th - YAROI VILLAGE: Child Sexual Abuse
- 31st - NAWENI VILLAGE: Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence

February:

GAU:

- 1st - TACILEVU VILLAGE: Child Sexual Assault
- 11th - VIONE VILLAGE: Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Role of FWCC
- 11th - VIONE DISTRICT SCHOOL: Child Sexual Assault, Role of FWCC
- 11-12th - NADAVE: Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Counselling Skills
- 12th - SOMOSOMO VILLAGE: Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Role of FWCC
- 12th - SAWAIEKE VILLAGE: Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Role of FWCC
- 12th - SAWAIEKE DISTRICT SCHOOL: Child Sexual Assault, Role of FWCC
- 13th - QARANI DISTRICT SCHOOL: Child Sexual Assault, Role of FWCC
- 13th - NAVUKAILAGI VILLAGE: Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Role of FWCC
- 13th - QARANI VILLAGE: Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Role of FWCC
- 14th - NAWAIKAMA DISTRICT SCHOOL: Child Sexual Assault, Role of FWCC
- 15-16th - SIGATOKA: Violence Against Women, Setting up a Centre
- 19th - NADAVE: Child Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence
- 19th - NAMOSI, REWA AND TAILEVU PROVINCE: Child Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence



Tavua Village, Koro.



Wailele Indian Settlement.

- 23rd - NAVEIWAKAU (SDA CHURCH): Child Sexual Assault

March:

KORO:

- 4th - KORO ISLAND, TAVUA VILLAGE, NAVAQA, KADE: Role of FWCC, Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Rape
- 5th - NABUNA, VATULELE, NACAMAKI: Role of FWCC, Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Rape
- 7th - KORO HIGH, NASAU, TUATUA: Role of FWCC, Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Rape
- 8th - MUDU, NAKODU: Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Rape, Prostitution, STD

BA:

- 19th - NASIVIKORO: Role of FWCC, Rape, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault
- 23rd - PRWDE (DCOSS): Child Sexual Abuse

NADI:

- 1-2nd - TRENDWEST: Sexual Harassment
- 15th-17th - SOROPTOMIST INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER WOMEN'S GROUPS IN NADI: Role of FWCC, Domestic Violence, Rape, Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse, The Role of Men in Violence Against Women and Human Rights - Development

SUVA:

- 8th - INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL: International Women's Day
- 10th - METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL (KINOYA CIRCUIT): Child Sexual Abuse and Protective Behaviour
- 13th - SDA REGIONAL OFFICE: Violence Against Women in the Pacific
- 19th - NABUA: Crime Prevention Day
- 20th - RFMF: Morality and Ethics and the Impact on Society
- 20th - VATUWAQA CRIME PREVENTION DAY: Violence Against Women and Peace in the Community
- 21st - USP (SO100): Gender Issues, Violence Against Women and Development Issues
- 26th - YAT SEN SECONDARY SCHOOL: Protective Behaviour

LAMI:

- 8th - LAMI CONVENT STUDENTS: Child Sexual Abuse and Protective Behaviour
- 8th - CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Rape

TAILEVU:

- 5th - FULTON COLLEGE: Child Abuse-Health Effects

CHILD ABUSE BREAKS DOWN TRUST

Children learn trust in their own families. Abused children, who learn that they can't trust their parents, may have difficulty in adult relationships where trust is required.



HOW WE SEE WOMEN



AND DEAL WITH VIOLENCE

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 Bula Network.

Fijian: 3.15pm on Radio Fiji 1

Every second Sunday

English: 9.30am on Bula 100.4FM

Every second Tuesday

Hindi: 11.15am on Radio Fiji 2

Every second Tuesday



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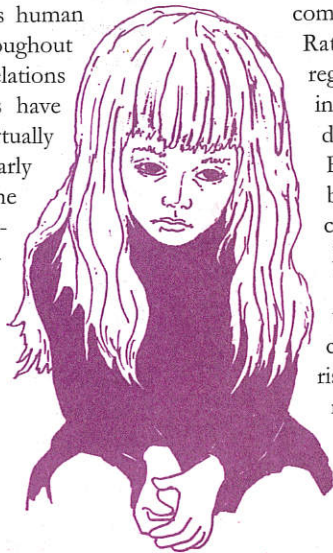
Child Sexual Abuse Crimes

Amongst the many mores human society has enforced throughout its social civilisation, sexual relations between children and adults have been strictly prohibited in virtually all societies. This is particularly when we consider that the victims are dependent, vulnerable and impressionable children, whilst the perpetrators are acknowledged as people in considerable positions of power and trust.

DYNAMICS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is defined as any sexual behaviour directed at a person under the age of sixteen without the person's consent. The globally acknowledged rate of child sexual abuse is at least one in four girls and one in eleven boys by the time they turn 18 years of

Research has shown that despite their greater access to children, women do not



"No one should hurt you in any way. Adults should make sure you are protected from abuse, violence and neglect. Even your parents have no right to hurt you"

- Convention on the Rights of the Child

commit the crime as much as men. Rather, women are themselves regarded as 'appropriate' victims in many cultures, that typically define them as male property. For that reason, some men believe they have the mandate to control and punish. Of particular importance is the link between violence towards women and violence towards children - where women are at risk, their children are also at a risk and are more likely to become involved in future violent relationships (Jaffe 1996).

According to Schultz (1995), Pacific communities do not often interfere with instances of child abuse as it is viewed as a private matter. He concluded that the lack of acknowledgement of the

crime may be due to:

- No specific laws relating to the physical or sexual abuse of children
- No formal requirement for professionals such as teachers and health care workers to

report abuse cases

- The weakening of traditional support networks resulting from social change and the growing number of people living in nuclear families

- Cultural tolerance of excessive discipline on 'traditional' or 'religious' grounds

Where the perpetrators of child sexual abuse are related to the victim, such as a father, grandfather, step-father, or uncle, the abuse is termed as **Incest**. (*Part 2-Ignominy of Incest which will be featured in our next issue including case studies from the Centre and the laws relating to Incest*).

• Turn to page 2

GLOBAL FACT FILE

- Most offenders of CSA are men (90- 97%), including fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, mother's boyfriends, neighbors and teachers
- In 85% of cases, the perpetrator is known to the child- only about 15% of CSA cases are 'stranger danger'
- There is often no medical evidence of sexual abuse, which does NOT mean that the crime has not been committed
- The sexual abuse of children occurs in all types of families- wealthy or working-class, educated or illiterate, extended or nuclear families
- Offenders are most likely to use verbal violence such as threats, promises and bribes rather than physical violence to secure the submission of the child



Illustration by Monica Love

THE FACTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

MYTH: Men who sexually abuse children are obviously mentally ill or crazy

FACT: Although it may seem hard to understand that normal people could commit crimes against children, reports suggest that most offenders are not mentally ill

MYTH: Children act in a sexy way towards abusers, so you cannot blame a man for responding

FACT: Offenders often use this excuse for their behaviour. Children may do what the man demands but it is out of fear and dependence and sometimes a great need for attention of any kind

VAKASAMA LASU: Ko ira na tagane era vakasagai ira na gone e ca na uludra se ra lialia

DINA: E dredre me da ciqoma ni so na tamata era rawa ni vakayacora nai tovo oqo vei ira na gone. E vakadinadinataki ni levu vei ira oqo etu vinaka na nodra vakasama

VAKASAMA LASU: E dau veivakagarogaro'i na nodra I vukivuki na gone ka da sega ni rawa ni beitaki ira na tagane nira vakayacora nai tovo oqo

DINA: Oqo edau nodrai ulubale na dau vakayaco I tovo oqo. Oira na gone era rawa ni vakayacora na ka e tukuna na tagane bale-ta nira rere se ra vinakata mera kauwaitaki

गलतफहमी- जो पुरुष बच्चों के साथ व्यभिचार करते हैं जाहिर है वे मानसिक तौर से बीमार या पागल हैं।

सच्चाई- हालांकि यह मानना मुश्किल होता है कि अच्छे-भले लोग बच्चों के साथ व्यभिचार कर सकते हैं लेकिन रिपोर्टों से पता चलता है कि अपराध करने वाले अधिकांश लोग मानसिक तौर पर बीमार नहीं होते।

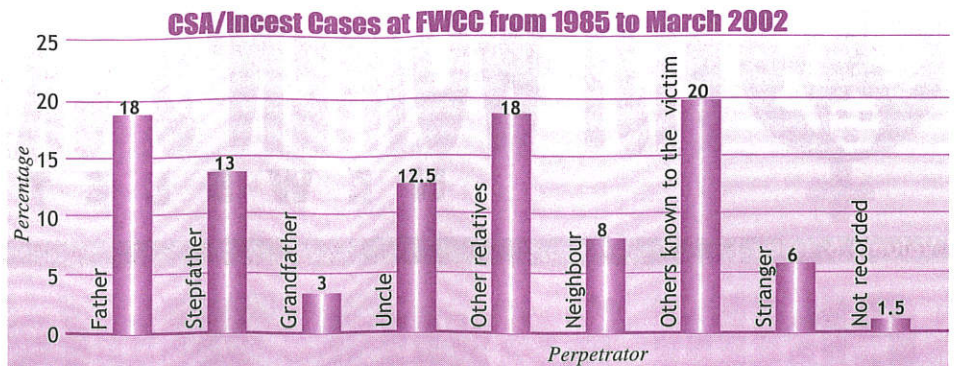
गलतफहमी- बच्चे बड़ों के साथ सेक्सी ढंग सेपेश आते हैं इस लिये आर पुरुष का मन ललचा जाता है तो उसको दोष नहीं दिया जासकता।

सच्चाई- कसूरवार लोग अपने बर्ताव के लिये अक्सर यह बहाना देते हैं। बच्चे एक पुरुष की इच्छानुसार काम कर सकते हैं लेकिन ऐसा वे डर से या उस पर निर्भर होने के कारण या कभी कभी ध्यान आकर्षित करने के लिये कर सकते हैं।

CHILD ABUSE BREAKS DOWN TRUST



I know IT IS NOT MY FAULT if someone touches me in a way that is not okay. I don't have to keep it a secret.



• From page 1

Research statistics on child sexual abuse and incest from the FWCC shows that a total number of 188 cases were reported between 1985 and March 2002, with 174 of the cases involving someone that was known to the victim, which amounts to 93%.



The highest number of perpetrators were fathers (33 cases), with stepfathers and uncles comprising of 24 cases, whilst other relatives made 34 cases.

• Part 1

Perpetrator

Perpetrator	No.	%
Father	33	18
Stepfather	24	13
Grandfather	6	3
Uncle	24	12.5
Other Relatives	34	18
Neighbour	15	8
Others known to the victim	38	20
Stranger	11	
Not recorded	3	1.5
TOTAL	188	100

Known to the victim	174	92.5
Not known	11	6
Not recorded	3	1.5

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Teach your children the differences between 'good' and 'bad' touches
- Be aware of changes in your child's behaviour or attitude
- Listen when your child tells you s/he does not want to be with someone
- Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child

WHAT CHILDREN CAN DO

- Shout 'NO' if someone tries to touch you in ways that make you feel uncomfortable. Then go and tell a trusted adult
- Before going anywhere, always check FIRST with your parents or the person in charge
- It is safer for you to be with other people when going places or playing outside
- You are special and deserve to feel safe

STAFF PROFILES

NAME: Farida Khan
(Ba Centre)

POSITION: Project Officer

WORK DYNAMICS:

Farida faces daily challenges in her activities at the Ba Centre as it serves women and children from Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki, and she often receives more than a hundred clients per month. The Centre provides confidential counselling and has a resource area where students and the public can access information. It also conducts community education programmes and workshops upon request.

REFLECTIONS: Farida first joined the centre in 1994. She had always believed in women's rights and abhorred any form of violence against them. "Working for the centre has been a reward in itself as I can return home each day in the knowledge that I have been able to make a difference in someone's life. This has been made possible by the training and support that I have received from my colleagues."



NAME: Julekha Mustafa
POSITION: Project Officer

DETAILS: Equipped with a strong background in social service work, Julekha joined the Lautoka Centre in May 2002 and participated in the FWCC's Regional Training Programme.

WORK DYNAMICS: the Lautoka centre serves the women and children of Lautoka, Nadi and Sigatoka and houses a resource area which is well stocked with literature on violence against women. Upon request, the counsellors visit community groups and discuss issues on violence against women and children.

REFLECTIONS: Julekha strongly dislikes the manner in which society accepts violence against women as a means of discipline. "Working for the centre has made me realise the urgent need for change in people's attitudes towards violence against women and children."



FIJI IN FOCUS

Recently, 3 important cases were brought to public attention by the media that outraged many people and organisations in Fiji because of the manner in which the rights of the victims were disregarded. The first two cases were a blatant violation of human rights, as sanctioned in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, whilst the third case defied legal norms to favour the perpetrator.

EMPLOYER STRIPS WOMAN

A woman was alleged to have been strip-searched by her employer in the presence of her three-year old son. She was accused by her employer of stealing a staff member's money and called into her office to discuss the matter with the staff member, who dropped the accusations after the discussion. However, the employer recalled her later in the evening and took her to the ladies washroom for a search, where she was assisted by two other Managers. The victim relayed that she had been made to lift her skirt, remove her bra and pull down her underwear.

The FWCC would like to receive your views on the above cases, particularly on its effects on women's human rights in Fiji. You may contact us in the following ways:

WRITE: Fiji Women Crisis Centre
PO Box 12882, Suva

FAX: (679) 3313 650

TELEPHONE: (679) 3313 300

DISCUSSION BOARD: www.fiji.women.com

WOMAN DENIED MEDICAL CHECK

A woman who was denied pre-natal checks whilst remanded in custody suffered a miscarriage and was only hospitalised after the tragic incident. She was remanded earlier this year and despite her submission for bail, the DPP's office objected. However, legal sources stated that the DPP's office, being fully aware of her condition, could have asked the court to confiscate her passport. For its part, the DPP's office has said that it did not want her to abscond and therefore, had sufficient grounds to ask for the denial of bail. It also stated that there was no reason to confiscate the victim's passport because she was being remanded and it was the court that denied her bail, not the office of the DPP.

It is believed that the Women's Prison in Suva does not have adequate medical facilities and special accommodation for pre and post-natal prisoners as required in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, Article 23 (1).

BAIL FOR ALLEGED MURDERER

A Ba-based police officer who was alleged to have stabbed his wife to death and consequently charged for murder, was allowed bail upon presentations by his lawyer. It is believed the victim was stabbed at the couple's police quarters and died of wounds inflicted to her throat and from severe choking.

The case alarmed the public at the time as many questioned the integrity of the police force and the extent to which it was in a position to protect the interests of the public. The fact that the Police Commissioner attributed the murder to the political upheaval of 2000 angered many people, who believed that his comments failed to rightfully recognise the crime of domestic violence so prevalent in Fiji.

At the time of the crime, the alleged murderer's lawyer had warned individuals and organisations from making any public comments, as he would not tolerate it.

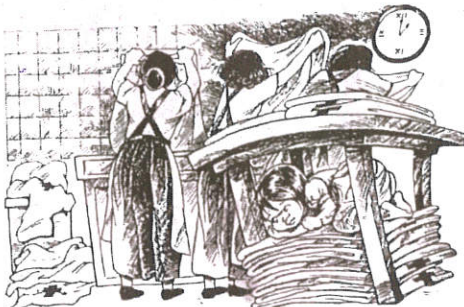
Commonwealth against trafficking

International trafficking of women and children has been recognised by the member countries of the Commonwealth as a grave global problem that needs to be urgently addressed. Trafficking includes the forced movement of women and children between or within national borders for the primary purposes of labour and/or prostitution.

As a part of its plan of action, the Commonwealth Human Rights Unit organised a consultation with its members in London, to prepare a guide on

the various strategies countries could adopt to tackle trafficking. Edwina, the deputy Co-ordinator of FWCC, attended the meet and forwarded contributions for the formulation of a handbook on international trafficking.

According to her, the



Source: Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

deliberations of the consultation provided an insight into the specific country situation of each member state and the means by which they dealt with the problem. Indeed, FWCC's experience in Fiji and around the region proved to be a valuable contribution towards the development of the various strategies that were adopted.

Funding for branches



The New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr Simcock, presents a cheque from NZAID

The FWCC received a much-needed boost for its 3 branches in Lautoka, Labasa and Ba from NZAID when the New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji presented a cheque of \$75,000, for the first half of 2002, with the remaining balance to be presented later in the year.

A major portion of the funds will be utilized in expanding the Labasa centre so it can better cater for the people of Vanua Levu.

In recent times, all 3 centres have placed greater emphasis on their community outreach and awareness programmes and with the timely presentation from NZAID, which has been consistent in its contributions to FWCC in meeting its goals, the centres will be in a better position to effectively continue their activities in the rural areas.

Crisis Centre Community Contact

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equally initiate education programmes. Whilst there is a general recognition and realization of crimes against women and children, many people are still not aware of the dynamics of these crimes, such as

rape, child abuse and domestic violence.

Our audience comprise of women, men and children, and our venues include villages, schools, temples, churches, and army barracks.

MAY:

- 28th - 30th - SHIU MANDIR: a 3-day workshop was arranged by the YWCA on the topic of Violence Against Women. There were 42 participants in attendance and they were engaged in focus-group discussions, whereby they discussed the various criminal acts committed against women, such as domestic violence and sexual assault.

The participants were vocal as well as supportive of women directly affected by such crimes and many of them were keen to gather information on the laws of Fiji and their legal rights in terms of child maintenance, property rights, divorce proceedings and custody issues, as well as police procedures.

JUNE:

- 2nd - SDA CHURCH, NADONUMAI: Role of FWCC
- 6th - METHODIST DEACONESS, RAIWAQA: Role of FWCC, Single Motherhood
- 19th - LAKENA NO. 2 HILL, NAUSORI: A community education programme was conducted for men, who were briefed on the role of the Centre, before engaging in active discussion about the issues that directly and often adversely affected women. The participants were honest and candid with their opinions on women's rights and the relationship they shared with their wives and other female family members. Some of the participants confessed to harbouring prejudiced views against women, which they attributed to the strong paternal influence in their childhood.

Overall, the men were active participants in the programme and asked a lot of questions on the topics presented to them.

- 19th - SARASWATI PRIMARY SCHOOL, MANOCA, NAUSORI: A community education programme was conducted for an audience



Yishu at Lakena No. 2 Hill (Shiu Mandir)



FTU participants learn about Child Abuse

of 140 school children, from Kindergarten to Class 4 level and Class 5 to Class 8 level. The primary topic of discussion was Child Sexual Abuse, and it covered protective behaviour, the differences between good and bad touches and the 8 Rules for Safety. The students and their teachers actively engaged in discussions to clarify their doubts on the various issues raised.

- 20th - MANOCA MOTHER'S CLUB: Domestic Violence, Child Abuse. The participants also sought clarity on legal matters such as maintenance, custody claims, divorce proceedings and property rights.

JULY:

- 25th - PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL, HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL: Child Abuse
- 27th - FTU WOMEN'S WING, SUVA: Child Issues- Society's Responsibility
- 31st - FTU WOMEN'S WING, NAVUA: Child Abuse
- 30th - 1st August: WOMEN OF MUANIKOSO: Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Sexual Abuse

Taveuni workshop



Collective voice - Alumita with the Catholic Women's group, Wairiki, Taveuni

Alumita, a counsellor at FWCC, conducted a two-day workshop organised by Sister Rosemary of the Wairiki Catholic Parish in Taveuni for the Catholic Women's Group from 14th to 15th June. Thirty-one people from the surrounding villages gathered at the Parish to hear Alumita explicate issues about violence against women and chil-

dren, such as child sexual abuse and rape, as well as clarify aspects on family law. The participants were much appreciative of the new knowledge they had acquired and formulated verbal action plans to strategize the courses of action they could/would undertake to eliminate violence in their communities.

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 programmes are available in English, Fijian and Hindi on the Bula Network.

- Fijian:** 3.15pm on Radio Fiji 1
Every second Sunday
- English:** 9.30am on Bula 100.4FM
Every Tuesday
- Hindi:** 11.15am on Radio Fiji 2
Every second Tuesday