

FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE



The first ever march to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Campaign was held in Taveuni last year. About 100 people participated in the march, starting off the annual global campaign to end violence against women.

WHAT IS THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM?

AS PART OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN, 25 NOVEMBER MARKED THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. THE DAY MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE ANNUAL 16-DAY LONG GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THAT PERSIST IN FIJI, THE PACIFIC AND ACROSS THE GLOBE.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women runs from 25 November to 10 December each year. This international campaign was conceived in 1991 during the first Women's Global Leadership Institute at Rutgers University, New Jersey in the United States.

FWCC Coordinator Shamima Ali was one of 23 women leaders from around the world who attended the institute and founded the campaign at Rutgers that year. Participants chose the dates in order to symbolically link violence against women (25 November) and human rights (10 December) and to emphasise that violence against women is a gross violation of human rights.

In Fiji and the Pacific, 16 Days has not only put the focus on the continuing violation of women's human rights, it has also played a significant part in the movement for democracy, rule of law and human rights.

SIGNIFICANT DATES DURING THE 16-DAY PERIOD INCLUDE:

- 25 NOVEMBER:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 29 NOVEMBER:** International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- 1 DECEMBER:** World Aids Day
- 2 DECEMBER:** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 DECEMBER:** International Day of People with Disabilities
- 6 DECEMBER:** White Ribbon Day to commemorate the Montreal Massacre
- 9 DECEMBER:** International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10 DECEMBER:** International Human Rights Day

For more information on the origin and significance of 16 Days, please visit: <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/about/key-dates>

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT

For more information, please call us on **3313 300 / 9209 470 (24 hours)** www.fijiwomen.com | fwcc@connect.com.fj

Visit us in **SUVA:** 88 Gordon Street | **NADI:** Lot 11 Vunisalato Rd, Namaka, Phone: **6707 558 / 9182 884**

BA: 35 Navatu Street, Varadoli, Phone: **6670 466 / 9239 775** | **RAKIRAKI:** Lot 2 Yaratale Road, Vaileka, Phone: **6694 012 / 9129 790**

LABASA: Lot 3 Naiyaca Subdivision (off Hospital Road), Phone: **8814 609 / 9377 784**

THE FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE CONTINUOUSLY TRAINS AND CONDUCTS AWARENESS SESSIONS THROUGHOUT FIJI. THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR EVENTS AND TRAININGS FACILITATED BY FWCC IN 2020.

FIJI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

- Male Advocacy Tikina o Rewa
- Fiji Disabled People's Federation
- Fiji Women's Fund
- Medical Services Pacific/Empower Pacific
- iTaukei Affairs Board
- RFMF
- University of Fiji
- Ministry of Youth
- FemLink Pacific
- Natioal Union of Factory Workers
- Westpac People's Social Leaders
- Pacific Eye Institute
- Manoca Women's Club
- Fiji Police Force - training of trainers
- SEEP
- Roko Tui leadership training, Nadave
- Verata Mother's Club
- Fiji Police Recruits
- USP Accounting Post-Grad students
- House of Sarah
- Police Traffic and Field investigators
- FRU, NRL, Suva Volleyball, Rugby Academy Fiji
- Koro Committee meeting
- Soqosoqo Vakamarama
- Vuqalei SDA Church
- Fiji Judo Association
- Fiji Women's Fund/Pacific Women 'Fiji Reflection Workshop' at Suva's Grand Pacific Hotel
- Training - Fiji Police Force Corporals Qualifying Course participants
- NGOCHR Fiji 50th panel discussion with FWCC, FWRM CCF, SEEP, Diva 4 Equality, House of Kameleon
- Ministry of Youth - 25 youth group representatives from the Eastern Division
- Staff Members of the Fijian Competition & Consumer Commission
- Department of Women – Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol
- Fiji Women Lawyers Association in conjunction with FWRM
- COFEM Webinar

- Meeting with representatives from BSP Bank
- Fiji National Shelter Standards for Gender-Based Violence – national consultation
- Awareness session for CID Police Officers
- World Rural Women's day at FRIEND HQ
- Police Special Response Unit (PSRU) and the Internal Affairs Department
- Fiji Police Southern Division Command Group training

NADI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

- Nadi Cane Producers Association
- Lautoka Cane Producers Association
- Plantation Island Resort
- Soroptimist
- Nadi Arya Kindergarten
- Awareness session in Lautoka for the Lomawai cane farming community
- Awareness on GBV at Nav Durga Temple in Lomowai
- Olosara farming community in Sigatoka

LABASA WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

- Provincial Office Taveuni
- Nabua Village, Savusavu
- Vunimoli Women's Group
- Nabua Village Women, Savusavu
- Nabua Village, Children, Savusavu
- House of Sarah
- Tikina Saqani, Savusavu

RAKIRAKI WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

- Tikina Nalawa
- Rakiraki Police Station – Discussion on police work

BA WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

- Varavu Muslim Primary School
- Ba District Council of Social Service
- Tavua Market Vendors Association
- Community awareness for church fellowship of four different settlements in Vatawai
- GBV workshop in Bukuya Village, Ba
- Marinitawa Women's Club

Activities: Nov 25-Dec 10, 2020

FIJI WCC

- Nov 25th: Community Awareness, Waidradra, Navua
- Nov 30th-Dec 4th: Male Advocacy training, Korolevu Village, Nadroga/Navosa
- Dec 7th-11th: Male Advocacy training, Nadevo, Ba
- Dec 1st: Fijian Media Association Media Dialogue/Reporting EAW

LABASA WCC

- Nov 23rd-27th: Community Awareness, Nagigi Seventh Days Adventist Women's Group and Savusavu workshop
- Nov 24th: Community awareness, Vivili Womens Group
- Nov 28th: Community Awareness, Sangam Bal Vikash Kids Group with parents and teachers

NADI WCC

- Nov 25th: Open Day at the Centre
- Nov 30th-Dec 4th: Community Education, Korolevu, Nadroga
- Nov 28th: Information booth, Votcity, Namaka
- Dec 5th: Information booth, Sugar City Mall, Lautoka
- Dec 5th: Community awareness, Drasa Methodist Church, Lautoka
- Dec 8th: Interagency, Sigatoka
- Dec 9th: Mobile counselling, Sigatoka

RAKIRAKI WCC

- Nov 25th: Information Booth, Rakiraki Town
- Dec 10th: Open Day at the Centre

BA WCC

- Nov 25th: Symposium on EAWW at the Centre
- Nov 26th: Tavua Interagency Meeting
- Dec 1st: Information booth, Tavua Town
- Dec 7th: Nadevo Male Advocacy
- Dec 10th: Open day at the Centre



The Labasa Women's Crisis Centre conducted a five-day male advocacy training on violence against women and girls, gender and human rights for the Tikina Saqani in Savusavu.



Minister for Women Mereseini Vuniwaqa closed the five-day Gender, Violence Against Women & Girls and Human Rights training facilitated by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre for the Southern Division Police Command Group.



FWCC was invited by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to conduct a training for various youth clubs in Nausori.



FWCC has supported the Fiji National Rugby League Voice Against Violence Program throughout the year.



Ba Women's Crisis Centre conducted a training workshop for 90 women at Korovou Village, Tavua.



Official opening of the Nadi WCC building by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern.



Participants of the Gender, Violence Against Women & Girls and Human Rights training. They are representatives of the Soqosoqo Vakamarama from Naitasiri, Korovou, Nausori, Nakasi, Levuka & Gau at Nadave.



FWCC Coordinator Shamima, Ashna (MSP), Josua Naisele (Ministry of Education), Prem (Empower Pacific) and Kalesi (ITaukei Affairs Board) at the Fiji National Action Plan to prevent VAW Consultation at the Warwick.



Staff members from the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre with participants from the gender-based violence awareness session at the House of Sarah at Nabunikadamu village, Wainunu, Bua.



Rakiraki Women's Crisis Centre conducted a five-day training on Gender, Violence Against Women & Girls and Human Rights at Namara Village in Ra for 30 women from the five villages of Tikina Lawaki.



Nadi Women's Crisis Centre conducted an awareness session for the Olosara farming community in Sigatoka on Violence Against Women & Girls.



L-R: Teresia Raqitawa - Project Officer Labasa WCC; Sally Waswo - First Secretary Development (Bilateral), New Zealand High Commissioner to NZ Johnathan Curr and FWCC Coordinator Shamima Ali at the opening of the Vanua Levu Male Advocacy workshop in Labasa. Participating at the workshop were former police officers, traditional leaders, youth leaders and Provincial Council officers.



Staff members from the Labasa Women's Crisis Centre spoke to women and men from the Wainikoro cane farming community on issues surrounding Violence Against Women & Girls and Human Rights. The awareness session was organised by the Labasa Cane Producers Association.



FWCC marked its 36 years of existence on August 15, 2020 with staff members and trustees and former Deputy Coordinator Edwina Kotoisuva.



Members of the Manoca Housing Mothers Club received two sewing machines from FWCC to support them as part of COVID response work.



Suva Volleyball Association team members during their Fiji Day volleyball tournament in October. FWCC supported the Suva Volleyball Association throughout the year.

Corporates



The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Lifeline Fiji received a donation from the BSP Group for its shelter projects. Lifeline Fiji was another beneficiary.



Shamima and Stephanie conducted a domestic violence training session with Westpac Banking Corporation's managers Fiji-wide via Zoom. The training was to create awareness on domestic violence, support systems in place and the legislation.



FWCC staff marked the One Billion Rising Campaign on February 14 during their 2020 retreat.



FWCC hosted a "Jacinda Party" and "Pinktober" event in Suva. The event was to celebrate women's leadership and create awareness on breast cancer. FWCC Coordinator Shamima Ali is pictured with Zureen and Rosy from the Manoca Women's Group and Minister for Women Mereseini Vuniwaqa.



FWCC Coordinator Shamima Ali with former Speaker of the House of Representatives Pita Nacuva and former Secretary General to Parliament Mary Chapman during the NGOCHR panel discussion on State of Democracy in Fiji.



FWCC in solidarity with the people of West Papua on a Wednesday at Suva's Tanoa Plaza Hotel.



Acting Commissioner of Police Rusiate Tudravu and FWCC Coordinator Shamima Ali with the 36 police officers from the Southern Division Command Group during their five-day training with FWCC in Suva.



Women from a Nadi-based community group during the 16 Days of Activism program organised by the Nadi WCC last year.

Impact of COVID-19

BEFORE we confirmed our first case of COVID-19 in Fiji, the women's movement was already in the front planning about what can be done to lessen the impact on women and girls in the country.

Women and girls in Fiji have shown great resourcefulness and resilience during the COVID-19 crisis, mobilising through their networks to call for inclusive response efforts.

During COVID-19 lockdown in April, we saw an increase in women facing violence.

The economic downturn saw a lot of Fijians losing their jobs, contributing to family units moving from urban areas to rural. This meant more people were living in extended families.

As a result, more women were burdened to look after the household needs and cater for the family, putting their own needs behind.

With many service providers on limited or restricted operation, access to justice for many women was also limited.

FWCC and the branches analysed the domestic violence cases accessing FWCC services since the confirmed case of COVID -19 in Fiji.

There is a similarity in women's experiences from each branch from a different division. For instance, women reported an increase in emotional,

verbal and coercive control behaviors by their husbands/ partners.

Women reported their call logs and social media messages being checked and monitored. In some cases, where women were referred from the National Domestic Violence Helpline to FWCC, counsellor Advocates were unable to contact the survivors as their phones were found to be switched off when the counsellors called them.

Some women disclosed that they experienced further isolation and control as the husbands/partners used the curfew and lockdowns to restrict their movements.

For the month of March, Suva office had a decrease in the client numbers. The reduction in the numbers was because of two factors. One is that end of March FWCC physically closed their offices and repositioned delivering services through phone and online.

In the month of April, FWCC had a 43% increase in the number of clients accessing counselling services via phones. Majority of the calls received in the month of April were domestic violence cases.

Out of 155 new clients, 70 were domestic violence cases, and 3 were child abuse cases.

The national toll-free helpline recorded 803 calls in April, of which 316 calls were only for domestic violence.

311 calls were from men suffering from the impact of COVID-19. FWCC's male advocates set-up a separate line for men.



COUNSELLING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO WOMEN FROM FWCC AND THE BRANCHES

Table 1: Suva Office Data: January – May 2020

2020	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Total of New Clients	110	96	87	155	136
Total of Repeat visits	179	69	93	161	111
Domestic Violence cases per month					
Total of DV cases	84	56	55	70	69

Table 2: Branch Data: January – May 2020


Branch		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Nadi WCC	Total of New Clients	27	18	32	55	51
	Total of Domestic Violence cases	20	11	19	40	18
Ba WCC	Total of New Clients	18	25	22	34	42
	Total of Domestic Violence cases	9	14	17	17	24
Rakiraki WCC	Total of New Clients	8	8	7	5	6
	Total of Domestic Violence cases	8	5	5	0	4
Labasa WCC	Total of New Clients	19	14	17	19	25
	Total of Domestic Violence cases	8	11	9	10	10

we remember...

**IN THE LAST 10 MONTHS (JANUARY – OCTOBER 2020)
FOUR WOMEN HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

- **MAY 2020**
▶ Adi Elenani, 28, of Naitasiri died after being allegedly stabbed to death by her partner.
- **JULY 2020**
▶ Sunita Devi, 49, of Sigatoka was allegedly stabbed multiple times with a cane knife by her defacto partner and died from the injuries she sustained.

▶ Salanieta Leba, 19 of Nausori – was allegedly punched and stabbed by her partner and was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.
- **JULY 2020**
▶ A 35-year-old woman from Lami was allegedly murdered by a 43-year-old man.
- **OCTOBER 2020**
▶ A woman from Nasinu died after allegedly setting herself alight. She suffered 65% burns to her body.



**Somebody's Life
Everybody's
Business:
Stop Violence
Against Women**

What are you giving your child for Christmas this year?

Will the toys your children receive be in keeping with the Spirit of Christmas?

Or will they encourage destruction and violence?



What's wrong with toys of violence?

- They desensitise children to the results of violence - pain, maiming, crippling and death;
- They endorse violence as a way of solving problems;
- They do not develop reasoning or verbal skills;
- They require no imagination or creativity. A pull of a trigger or push of a button takes care of problems;
- They reverse the positions of good and bad values: they downgrade patience, compassion and the spirit of co-operation, while upgrading quick-trigger responses, aggressiveness and hate;
- Many of the toys equate survival with attacking, winning and being dominant. In actuality, survival may depend upon compromise, give-and-take and co-operation.



THE CHOICE IS YOURS...

36 YEARS ON, THE STATISTICS STACK UP

Since 1984, FWCC and its branches have attended to more than 23,872 new domestic violence cases in Fiji.

From January to October this year, FWCC and its branches have received 751 domestic violence cases, 67 rape cases, 9 attempted rape cases, 42 child sexual abuse cases, 39 child physical/verbal/emotional abuse cases and 12 sexual harassment cases.

**National
Domestic
Violence
Helpline**

1560
24-HOUR TOLL-FREE