



South Pacific  
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

# new SPLAsh

Issue 11

## KIRIBATI ISSUE

### FEATURE ARTICLE

## GENDER VIOLENCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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### Upcoming...

The 2015 South Pacific Lawyers' Conference will take place on a Thursday/Friday in September 2015 in Brisbane, Australia. Dates TBC.

### PILON photos

View photos from the 33<sup>rd</sup> PILON Meeting in Tarawa, Kiribati on the SPLA Flickr account [here](#).



## A word from...

### Sister Bernadette Eberi, President, Kiribati Law Society

Mauri,

It is my great pleasure to write these words for the South Pacific Lawyers' Association (SPLA) magazine, newSPLAsh.

It has been a busy time in Kiribati with the recent Pacific Island Law Officers' Network (PILON) meeting taking place here in Tarawa on 11-12 November 2014. I was delighted that the SPLA was conferred official Observer Status by PILON. This means that each year, a representative from the SPLA is able to participate in the PILON Annual Meeting. More details of the Meeting and pictures can be seen on page 6.

2014 has been a busy year for the Kiribati legal profession with its first major CLE event, supported by the Centre for Asia Pacific Pro Bono, being held in February.

The Pacific Judicial Development Program has also been conducting trainings for judges and court officers in Kiribati through its Delay Reduction Project and Enabling Rights Project which visited in May and again in November. These projects aim to assist the courts to implement toolkits to improve responsiveness and address the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised beneficiaries as well as exploring methods to achieve court excellence.

The SPLA Secretariat has been busy with the roll-out of the 2014 Pacific Legal Profession Survey (more information on page 5) and the finalisation of Phase I of the draft Model Conduct Rules Project, please see page 4 for an update.

This edition of newSPLAsh features an in-depth article (from page 10) from University of Queensland lecturer Nicole George on an issue which is far too common, gender violence in the Pacific. The article identifies the political and economic marginalisation of women as the core of the problem and the positive correlation between political

*Sister Bernadette Eberi, Chief Registrar, High Court of Kiribati and President, Kiribati Law Society*



participation and security for women in New Caledonia. Domestic, gender-based and sexual violence is a problem here in Kiribati. The legal profession often deals with the bitter end of the violence cycle, so it is appropriate and important for the profession to be involved in the discussion of how to mitigate the problem from the outset.

The Women's Crisis Centre, run by my religious sisters here on Tarawa, sees many victims of gender and sexual violence. The Centre relies on periodic Government and donor funding, but faces many challenges to provide support and security for residents. The Centre's key focus is on acquiring support to construct a secure fence to provide better security for women in the Centre and for the sisters who staff the Centre 24 hours a day. Anyone who wishes to help support the centre can contact me by email for further information at [bernadette.eberi@gmail.com](mailto:bernadette.eberi@gmail.com)

I hope you enjoy this edition of newSPLAsh. I urge you to all contribute to this publication, which is developed as a resource for the Pacific legal profession.

Ti a boo moa

Sister Bernadette Mee Eberi fdnsc

## In profile...

### Kiribati Law Society

The Kiribati Law Society was established in 2006 under the *Kiribati Law Society Act No.7*. Led by Sister Bernadette, the peak body represents a small legal profession comprising 12 private practitioners and 29 in-house and public lawyers.

With the support of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Pro Bono, the Kiribati Law Society hosted its first CLE event on 3-6 February 2014. The four-day workshop focused on ethics, advocacy and court etiquette and was conducted by National Legal Aid, Australia.

Kiribati also co-hosted the 33rd Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network Annual Meeting in November 2014 under the theme "Combatting environmental crime in the Pacific – issues and best practices." Kiribati is one of the first countries in the world to be impacted by climate change, which is exacerbated by environmental crimes such as beach mining, littering, dumping metal and non-biodegradable waste).

In terms of the gender-based violence theme for this issue of newSPLash, Kiribati recently passed its *Family Peace Act 2014*. The legislation

#### Kiribati Law Society Officeholders

President: Sister Bernadette Mee Eberi


Treasurer: Ms Taoing Taoaba

Secretary: Mr George MacKenzie

Councillor: Mr Abuera Uruaaba

aimed to work towards eliminating domestic violence and was widely consulted on, however, some have criticised the new law for inciting women to commit offences against morality and culture.

Read [Kiribati's full PILON Country Report](#) for more information on legal developments in Kiribati this year.

In 2015, the Kiribati Law Society will focus on legal skills, court advocacy and ethics training for lawyers and a public education campaign on legislations. 



Kiribati is already experiencing the impact of climate change



## In brief...

### SPLA AGM 2014

The SPLA Annual General Meeting for 2014 was held on Wednesday 19 November 2014 via teleconference. The Executive reported on the SPLA's activities over the past year and provided an update on key initiatives such as the South Pacific Model Conduct Rules Project and the 2014 Pacific Legal Profession Survey. Participants were also advised that the next South Pacific Lawyers' Conference will be held in September/October 2015 (depending on court sitting periods) in Brisbane, Australia.

### 2nd South Pacific Lawyers' Conference 2015 – SAVE THE DATES

The South Pacific Lawyers' Conference 2015 will be held on a Thursday/Friday in September 2015 – subject to confirmation of dates in Brisbane, Australia. The Conference will be held over two days and, in response to feedback received at the inaugural Conference in Port Vila in 2013, will adopt a 'workshop focus'. These workshops will likely focus on litigation and pleadings; practice management and ethics, with other topics and the theme of the Conference yet to be determined.

Associated with the Conference the SPLA will seek to host roundtable discussions on legal education and regulation of the legal profession in the region.



### South Pacific Model Conduct Rules Update

The South Pacific Model Conduct Project is an initiative of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association, which is supported by the Law Council of Australia and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and has been endorsed by the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON). The objective of the project is to develop model rules, legislation and regulations which can be adopted with appropriate debate and modification to harmonise regulation of the legal profession in South Pacific countries.

The first phase of the project is almost complete. This phase involves comparative analysis of existing rules in South Pacific countries, preparing a report identifying shortcomings and making recommendations for reform, and identifying model rules of professional conduct and complaints and discipline handling procedures.

In drafting the report, at least three key shortcomings have emerged in the current legislative formulae adopted by most jurisdictions in the region:

- Definitional Issues – terms such as 'professional misconduct' are often not defined resulting in interpretative difficulties for regulators;
- Categorisation leaving 'gap' – to the extent that conduct is defined or categorised, significant gaps remain resulting in large gaps in the regulatory framework;
- Nexus – Lack of a clear nexus between findings of misconduct and disciplinary consequences.

Shortcomings in the administration and determination of complaints against legal practitioners include:

- failure in some jurisdictions to properly specify the complaint making process;
- lack of a 'triage' system for classifying 'minor' complaints which can be dealt



- absence of express obligation of fairness in administering complaints or conducting disciplinary proceedings;
- lack of adherence to the principle of open justice; and
- no publication of findings, or reasons for findings.

In addition to the preparation of the Phase I report into conduct rules and complaints and discipline, resources collected have enabled the creation of tables of outlining admission requirements, licensing requirements and costs disclosure requirements in surveyed jurisdictions. These will be uploaded to the SPLA website in the New Year.

The preliminary findings noted above were reported to the recent meeting of PILON in Kiribati, 11-12 November 2014. Following the completion of the report, the SPLA will engage with PILON and Pacific Islands Forum member countries to promote the findings and recommendations of the report and secure support for the continuation of the project.

### **Pacific Legal Profession Survey 2014**

In September, the SPLA sent copies of its Pacific Legal Profession Survey 2014 to members. The Survey incorporates recommendations and questions from the 2011 Needs Survey and the Women in Law Survey released earlier this year. The 2014 Survey will:

- collect information on legal practice in SPLA member countries including information on the variety of work performed in the Pacific, experience and accessibility of flexible working arrangements, mentoring services provided by employers and bar associations and opportunities for career progression;



- collect information on the structure and function of legal professional bodies in SPLA member countries;
- collect demographic data on Pacific legal professionals (including statistics of women in the legal profession);
- collect information on CLE, complaints and discipline and pro bono culture;
- identify and monitor trends and divergences in the legal profession across SPLA member countries; and
- identify the challenges and opportunities facing peak legal professional bodies with a view to developing proposals for funding and support.

The data collected will be used to prepare a Report on the state of the profession in the South Pacific region, noting key demographic trends since the previous surveys.

The Report will be valuable for law societies and bar associations in the region to identify developments within their jurisdiction and for comparative research purposes. It is anticipated that the Report will also be useful to government bodies and other relevant agencies in developing policies affecting the legal profession and the law and justice sector generally. The final Report is anticipated to be released in 2015.

For more information, please email [info@southpacificlawyers.org](mailto:info@southpacificlawyers.org).

## In brief...



### **33rd PILON Annual Meeting Wrap-Up**


The South Pacific Lawyers' Association (SPLA) participated as an invited observer in the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) in South Tarawa, Kiribati in November 2014. PILON is a network of senior public law officers from Pacific Island countries, including Australia and New Zealand, which focuses on common legal issues within the Pacific region. The SPLA has been invited to attend PILON as an observer since 2010. This year, in addition to reporting on the current progress of the Pacific Model Conduct Rules Project to members, the SPLA also applied for formal Observer Status of PILON.

The theme of the Conference was "Combating Environmental Crime in the Pacific: Issues and Best Practices." The three

priorities for PILON over the previous 12 months were climate change, gender and domestic violence and cooperation on proceeds of organised crime. Members reported on these and other issues relevant to the work of PILON.

The SPLA's Report on the Model Conduct Rules Project was well received by PILON

members and several PILON members expressed support for Roundtables on legal profession education and regulation to be held in 2015.

Following deliberation by members, the SPLA's application for Observer Status was accepted. This is a great achievement and honour for the SPLA and the SPLA wishes to convey its gratitude to all PILON members for their support of the SPLA as the independent peak regional body for the legal profession. The SPLA Secretariat looks forward to continuing to work closely with the PILON Secretariat into the future. 



Mr Tibue Tibune, Attorney-General, Kiribati and current Chair of PILON addresses delegates





Centre for Asia-Pacific Pro Bono

# Make your mark

Whether you want to provide or request pro bono legal assistance, you can make your mark in strengthening the region's law and justice sector.

The Centre for Asia-Pacific Pro Bono (CAPPB) matches requests for assistance from the Asia-Pacific with pro bono providers in Australia.

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Fiji

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request assistance,  
please visit

[cappb.org](http://cappb.org)



## In brief...

### PACIFIC JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Chief Justice, Sir John Muria invited the Pacific Judicial Development Programme (PJDP) to provide support to address the needs of unrepresented litigants in Kiribati to ensure that they have fair access to the court and receive fair trials by the court. The Enabling Rights Adviser and PJDP Team Leader, Dr Livingston Armytage, conducted a series of consultations and workshops from 18-25 May and again from 10-20 November 2014. The purpose of the first visit was to undertake a needs assessment of the situation relating to unrepresented litigants in Kiribati and the second visit was for the purpose of piloting the PJDP's Enabling Rights Toolkit, developed as a result of the consultations conducted in the first visit.

The Enabling Rights Toolkit, provides practical guidance on supporting courts across the region to address the rights of unrepresented litigants and also provides a methodology for enabling the legal rights of others seeking justice in Pacific communities. The development of this toolkit is part of the PJDP's strategy to support partner courts to implement their development activities at the local level by providing information and practical guidance on what to do. The toolkits are designed to support change by promoting the local use, management, ownership and sustainability of judicial development in Pacific Islands Countries across the region. By developing and making available these resources, PJDP aims to build local capacity to enable partner courts to address local needs and reduce reliance on external donor and adviser support.

To date, eight toolkits have been finalised and published, including:

- Judges' orientation
- Producing annual court reports
- Developing codes of judicial conduct
- Establishing national judicial development committees
- Conducting family violence and youth justice workshops
- Setting time-goals for case management
- Promoting access to justice
- Trainer's Toolkit: Designing, Delivering and Evaluating Training Program

The above PJDP toolkits are available on the PJDP website (<http://www.fedcourt.gov.au/pjdp/pjdp-toolkits>), with more coming soon, including the Enabling Rights Toolkit and the Delay Reductions Toolkit.

Additionally, from 10-28 November 2014, the PJDP conducted a pilot for its Delay Reduction Toolkit in Kiribati. Early feedback on this project led by the Delay Reduction Adviser Ms Jennifer Ehmann, has been extremely positive and it is hoped that the toolkit will have a positive impact on the reduction of delays in court proceedings in Kiribati as well, as throughout the region.



## SIBA elects first female President

The Solomon Islands Bar Association has elected its first female President at its Annual General Meeting in early December 2014.

The SPLA Secretariat congratulates Ms Katalaini Ziru on her election as well as the following officeholders:

Vice-President:	Silverio Lepe
Treasurer:	Constance Hemmer
Secretary:	Jasper Anisi
Members:	Donald Marahare, Eran Soma and Whitlam Togamae

Ms Ziru currently sits on the SPLA Executive and is also the Chief Legal Officer, responsible for the Legal Policy Unit at the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs. Please see page 22 of [newSPLAsh issue 9](#) for Ms Ziru's more detailed profile.



Solomon Islands Bar Association's  
new President Ms Katalaini Ziru



Wishing you a  
happy festive  
season from the  
*SPLA Secretariat*

## In depth...

# Gender violence in the Pacific Islands: Linking women's security and women's participation

*By Dr Nicole George, Lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Queensland*



Gender violence is a widespread phenomenon in the Pacific Islands region that grossly undermines the human rights of women. It might

be accurately called an epidemic resistant to treatment. Thirty years of advocacy on gender violence in the region has achieved a great deal in raising awareness about women's human rights to live secure and violence free lives. But this awareness has not translated into a practical reduction in the levels of violence suffered by the regions' women. Indeed there is strong evidence to suggest that in many parts of the region, gender violence may be increasing. This indicates the need for new approaches to understanding and addressing the problem. While much of the current work in this area has focussed on the cultural foundations of violence, it is imperative that we also turn our attention to the relationship that exists between the abuse of Pacific Island women and their political and economic disempowerment.

This requires us to consider how gendered insecurity in the Pacific Islands region is compounded by women's marginal positions in the political and economic life of their communities. Put another way, if we are to confront gender violence effectively we may need to look at developing stronger economic and political platforms for Pacific Islands women; platforms which might increase their capacity to secure violence-free lives. Since the beginning of 2014, I have been working with teams of local field workers in Fiji and Bougainville to enquire about women's

attitudes to safety, their role as decision-makers and their economic standing. My preliminary findings show that women live with high levels of insecurity, and engage in "every-day" surveillance of their surroundings to protect against this risk as a normal state of affairs. Very few have opportunities to make these experiences known to the broader community or the economic resources that might be required to create a secure environment for themselves or their children.

### **Violence against women and political marginalisation**

It is no coincidence that rates of gender violence currently flourish in a region where female political representation hovers under 4% of national parliamentary seats. This ensures that state-level political and economic commitments towards improving the lives of women in the region are rare. Across the region, government portfolios that often have a direct relevance to women's well-being such as public health, or those concerned with family, welfare and community, receive limited state investment and lack the political prestige and practical clout to meaningfully address women's disadvantaged status.

Women's political marginalisation at the national level is often echoed at the community or village level. Women I worked with in Fiji observed that it was very unusual for them to speak publically at village meetings which are more generally run by men, and that if they did so they may face an aggressive violent backlash from male family members afterwards. This made it difficult for them to draw attention to these problems and initiate any positive action at the community level that might increase their safety. One woman



summed up this feeling of marginalisation and political powerlessness stating “our experiences are just our own”.

In Bougainville, matrilineal cultural structures allow women more latitude to contribute to village meetings and raise issues of concern to them. But here too, there are also gendered limits placed on this activity, and men may become particularly distrustful if they feel that their wives or other female members spent too long at women's only church or village gatherings. A number of women I interviewed in Buka mentioned having to sneak back home or to a relative's house because they feared violent reprisals from their male partners for their absence and the fact that they had spent so much time involved in “women's work”.

Will there is evidence of an increasing political will shown by the region's (male) political leaders to confront gender violence, current policies and law reform efforts have had mixed impacts. This is because male dominated governments often approach the problem of gender violence in ways which reinforce rather than challenge prevailing gender discriminatory social and cultural norms.

For example, in the post-2006 coup context, Fiji's military government introduced a new “zero tolerance” policing response to violence against women which encourages villages to declare themselves “violence free”. This forms part of a broader community policing model involving community members as both stakeholders and participants in law and order provision. Key components of this program have aimed to raise awareness that gender violence is a crime and develop community prevention strategies aimed at de-escalating potentially violent situations in the home. This is coupled with a government anti-violence decree which authorises a tough law and order response towards the perpetrators of crimes of gender violence should community interventions fail.

But deeper scrutiny of this community policing effort on gender violence reveals it to have

had unintended negative consequences. Representatives from non-government organisations such as the highly regarded Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, argue that the focus on community-based interventions tend to privilege reconciliation between aggrieved family members and see pressure placed on women to endure violence in the home rather than break marital vows or seek external forms of justice. A gross under-reporting of incidents of gender violence to authorities is said to have ensued also because villages who declare themselves “violence free” are eager to maintain their positive profile with state authorities and village leaders are fearful of unwanted and highly punitive police scrutiny.

These observations indicate that a government that is authoritarian and male-dominated, can compound the insecurity of women, even when it seeks to make the elimination of gender violence a key policy focus.

### **Violence against women and economic marginalisation**

In addition to women's secondary role in decision-making, we need also to focus our attention on the relationship between women's economic marginalisation and women's vulnerability to violence. Across the region, women's work is concentrated in subsistence agricultural production or ghettoised in low-skilled, low-waged, and low-prestige cash employment sectors. Gender disaggregated economic data for the region shows that the majority of women continue to work in subsistence food cultivation, agriculture or fisheries; with levels averaging between 54% and 66% of women in most countries, but rising to 95% of women in Papua New Guinea. Where women are employed in the cash economy, their work is concentrated across the region in poorly remunerated sectors such as manufacturing, service and care. The gendered economic consequences of this trend are made clear in data from Fiji which shows that that 44% of female workers earn incomes below the poverty line of FJD 60 per week as compared to 34% of male workers.

## In depth...

### Gender violence in the Pacific Islands (cont'd)

This level increases to 67% of women within the informal, cash-based economy.

The gendered scale of economic participation means that women have few opportunities to acquire the economic autonomy needs to escape violence in conjugal, family and village settings.

Preliminary results from my research with women in Fiji and Bougainville provide further insights on this question. In general respondents tended to define their relationships with men in terms of a protective bargain. This means that in return for their unpaid domestic and reproductive labour in the home, women expect husbands and intimate partners to create a secure environment for them as providers of both material and physical well-being. Yet this apparent valuing of masculine protection is balanced with a tendency to recognize the risks faced by women who are economically dependent upon men. Many of our informants described how requests for money from male partners for unexpected expenses could result in verbal abuse and sometimes violence. A majority of our informants also felt that women's physical safety was at risk and that violent conflict might ensue if their husbands or intimate partners accused them of being wasteful with money.

Where the security bargain was not being fulfilled, and conjugal relationships might be generally described as violent, our respondents commonly identified the importance of women having independent economic means so that they could extract themselves from violent relationships. However, some informants also observed that women who are more economically active than their husbands may be subject to forms of 'backlash' violence from husbands and partners who resent their economic independence or are

suspicious that financial autonomy encourages infidelity.

For most of the women we interviewed however, economic empowerment of the sort described above was a far dream. Some of our urban-based informants worked as middle-class professionals but the majority of respondents lived in rural villages or informal urban squatter settlements. Food garden cultivation, fishing, small-scale agriculture, handicraft production and home-industry income generation (sewing or cooking) provided cash to meet daily expenses but little more. In such contexts the possibility of achieving a viable base of economic autonomy was highly desirable, but disturbingly remote.

#### **Positive evidence-base linking participation and security for women: New Caledonia**

An important, but little known, contrast to this more generalised scenario can be found in the Francophone territory of New Caledonia. Here, women have gained an elevated level of political representation (roughly 50 per cent of parliamentary seats) thanks to electoral parity laws that were adopted in 2001 (these laws operate in proportional representation system and require political parties to prepare electoral lists which alternate the names of male and female candidates).

These gains are not simply numerical. Some women parliamentary representatives have gone on to attain the highest levels of political office with Marie Noelle Themereau elected President of the territorial government between 2004-2007, Déwé Gorodé elected as Vice President between 2004-2009 and Cynthia Liegard holding Presidential office since June 2014. Similar results were recorded in New Caledonia's recent municipal elections which returned 5 women as mayors, including

the first woman mayor of Nouméa, the territorial capital.

These women leaders have shown a strong determination to address questions of gender disadvantage in New Caledonia and mobilized state resources to fund a series of government agencies specifically devoted to women's well-being. The existence of these agencies, operating at both the national and provincial level, and the explicit attention they pay to the issue of violence against women, is unique to the region. Put simply, they promote a state-led discourse on gender violence that is focused on women's human rights to physical security and identifies this position as consistent with Kanak customary provisions.

Indicators of the success of this approach are present in recent research which suggests that the public profile of the 'women's sector' has encouraged Kanak women to become more resistant to gendered forms of violence and to renegotiate gender relations in ways which challenge male conjugal authority. The success of the parity provisions has also emboldened

Kanak women to demand a fuller role in economic production and even to demand parity provisions be extended to enable women's representation in the territory's Senat Coutumier – the peak Kanak body charged with the regulation of customary protocols in New Caledonia.

The lessons to be taken from this example are instructive for a region where debates on women's exposure to violence and their political and economic participation are conducted in a cloistered fashion. In the Francophone Pacific, parity laws are described as a "phénomène de contagion". This is because their success lies not simply in the fact that there are more women in the Francophone territorial parliaments. Improvements in women's political standing have also opened the way for a renegotiation of gender norms in other economic, social and customary contexts. Increasing acceptance of these challenges to the discriminatory status quo may hold the key to confronting violence against women into the future.

### **\*About the author**

*Nicole George is a Senior Lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies and Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Fellow (2013-2016) in the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland, Australia. Nicole's research interests are focused on the politics of gender, conflict, violence, peacebuilding and resilience. She has recently published a book with the Australian National*



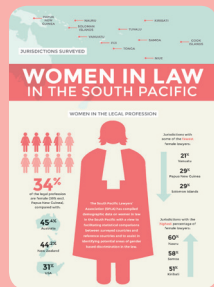
*Dr George with the Hoko Women's Collective in Bougainville*

*University Press examining the history of women's organisations in post-colonial Fiji against a backdrop of global and local political change. She has also*

*published a number of articles and book chapters which examine the phenomenon of violence against women in the Pacific Islands, women's peacebuilding work in contexts marked by conflict and women's regional efforts to promote United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security'. She has recently worked with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to successfully convene a workshop with regional policy-makers examining the relationship between human security, gender sensitive policy and sustainable development. At this event, a strong focus was placed on the developing policy resources to address the pervasive presence of gendered insecurity in the region.*



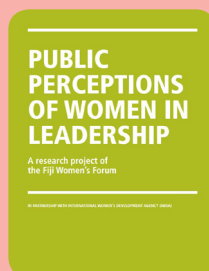
## Related reading...



**SPLA Women in Law Survey Report and fact sheet**



**Pacific young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights factsheet**



**Public perceptions of women in leadership** (2014)  
Research project conducted by Fiji Women's Forum in partnership with International Women's Development Agency (2014)



**In Briefs**  
Developed by the State, Society & Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM) in the ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

**Emerging women leaders in Solomon Islands: The aims and activities of the Young Women's Parliamentary Group** (2014)

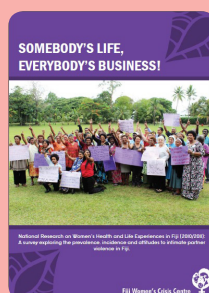
**Women's representation and the question of temporary special measures in Tuvalu** (2014)

**Women MPs in Samoa and Kiribati** (2013)



**Putting gender equality centre stage in the Pacific** (2014)

UNESCAP's Pacific Policy Brief on the benefits of economic empowerment for women, families and economies.



**Somebody's Life. Everybody's Business!** (2010-2011)

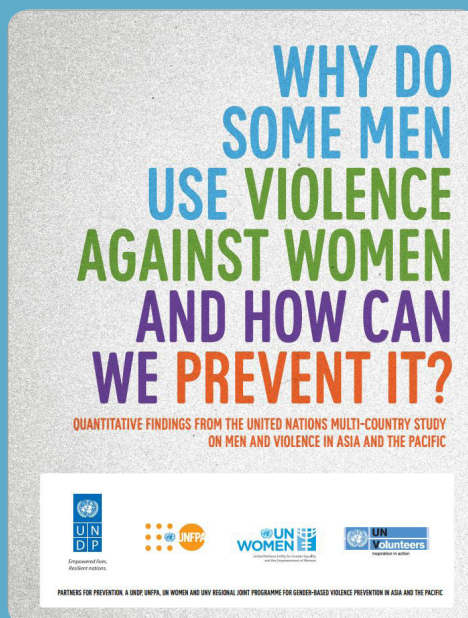
National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010/2011): A survey exploring the prevalence, incidence and attitudes to intimate partner violence in Fiji.

## United Nations' multi-country study on men and violence



Watch the [video](#) of the 2013 survey of 10,000 men conducted by Partners for Prevention, UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and UN Volunteers regional joint programme reveals why some men use violence against women in Asia and the Pacific, and how we can prevent it.

Quantitative findings from the [UN multi-country study](#) on men and violence in Asia and the Pacific



## Back to school

UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women (UNiTE) [recently launched](#) an infographic factsheet on school-related gender-based violence in Asia-Pacific. [Full report](#) also available.



## Coming up...

- ▶ Regional Capacity-Building Training-of-Trainers Workshop (PJDP)  
Auckland  
9-20 February 2015  
[More info](#)
- ▶ 2015 World Masters of Law Firm Management  
Sydney, Australia  
12 March 2015  
[More info](#)  
[Register now](#)
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Forum Conference:  
Borderless Asia  
Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
18-20 March 2015  
[www.ibanet.org](http://www.ibanet.org)
- ▶ 7th Chief Justices' Leadership Workshop (PJDP)  
Apia, Samoa  
20-22 April 2015  
[More info](#)
- ▶ Inter-Pacific Bar Association 25th Annual General Meeting and Conference  
Hong Kong  
6-8 May 2015  
[More info](#)



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The South Pacific Lawyers' Association was established in 2007 by the Law Council of Australia in partnership with the New Zealand Law Society with seed funding from the International Bar Association. The South Pacific Lawyers' Association exists to assist developing law societies and bar associations in the South Pacific and to promote the interests of the legal profession in the South Pacific. Please visit [www.southpacificlawyers.org](http://www.southpacificlawyers.org) for more information. *newSPLash* is produced on behalf of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association by the Law Council of Australia. For all enquiries, or to submit articles to *newSPLash*, please contact Karuna Gurung, phone +61 2 6246 3715 or email [karuna.gurung@lawcouncil.asn.au](mailto:karuna.gurung@lawcouncil.asn.au).