



Apr - Jun, 2013

Mo'ui Ke Fiefia

WOMEN AND CHILDREN CRISIS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Creating a Kindom that is Violence free

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Malo e Leleli!

'Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil Likiliki - WCCC Director

You may have been following the issues regarding the Family Protection Bill and its submission for parliamentary debates, thanks to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Lord Vaea.

What's interesting about the debates so far is that there is a public perception that those supporting the bill are essentially breaking up families.

SO - let me share with you what we are really breaking up ... in the hope that it will shed some light on the realities happening in Tonga ...

1. We are breaking up the continual RAPE of a little girl by her step-father who forces himself on top of her every night at about 2am when the entire family is sleeping and telling her to go down on him and threatening her life and the life of her mother and other family members

2. We are breaking up the on-going verbal attacks of a grandson to his elderly grandmother who swears at her constantly and even smashed his grandmothers face with an object

3. We are breaking up an attack of a son-in-law

on his father-in-law and beating up his wife at the same time

4. We are breaking up a father's attempt to continue raping his two daughters for the last four years

5. We are breaking up a step-brother's rape of his step-sister

6. We are breaking up a parent's use of discipline - burning their child's body with cigarette marks all over the body

7. We are breaking up parent's continual verbal abuse on their daughter - leading to attempted suicide

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In Apr - Jun 2013,

Women - 52

Children - 18

(14 girls/4 boys)

Men - 7

77 = a total of clients sought refuge from violence at WCCC

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Pacific Island States Workshop on Trafficking in Persons

A Regional Anti - Human Trafficking Training Workshop for Criminal Justice Practitioners was held in Suva at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on the 17th - 19th of June.

There were about forty participants from the region that participated in this training. Relevant stakeholders who work closely directly at this area were there. They were law practitioners, police officers, customs & quarantine officers and NGOs. The Tonga Women and Children Crisis Centre attended and represented by their Community Education Trainer, Lesila L. To'ia.

Topics covered were The International Framework of Trafficking in Persons, Regional Patterns of Trafficking in Persons, Regional Legislation, Victim

Identification - National Referral System, Victim Protection, Victim Trauma and its affect upon Law Enforcement, Interviewing Victims, Child Victims of Trafficking - The International Framework, Child Vulnerability and Protection - International and National Cooperation.

"I find the training very interesting, informative as it links directly to the work we do since women and children are the most vulnerable group for human trafficking. The WCCC is willing and committed to work with relevant stakeholders on what is the best practice in working with law enforcement to address the issue of human trafficking." Said To'ia.

"I would like to thank the United Office on Drugs

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Training provides new skill for WCCC staff

WCCC's Communication and Research Advocate, Tupou Mahe Lanumata attended a six days Data Collection and Management training in Tonga Family Health Association Training Centre from the 12th to the 19th of June.

Organized by the Ministry of Health, the training included 22 participants from Government Ministries and Non Government Organizations. "I would like to thank the Ministry of Health for this opportunity. I learnt a lot and found it very useful and relevant to the work that I do, especially on data collection and data management.

The six days training was facilitated by the Chief Information Officer on Tonga Health Information System of the Ministry of Health, Sione Hufanga and Sione Lolohea from the Department of Statistics.

"Data and information is a serious business and it requires long sustainable commitment, and by good data and information plays a clear role because data alone is not very interesting, it is the information that comes out of data is important. Absent of good information is like taking off light and lives by the rules of darkness", said Hufanga.

"With the knowledge and skills gained from this

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WCCC commence radio talk back show as one of their awareness programs

WCCC has commenced a one hour weekly radio program on BroadCom Broadcasting Limited 89.5 FM Radio as one of its awareness program.

This is one of the Centre's aim to bring these issues to the frontline and through the media so that the people are aware of the prevalence of these problems.

Issues such as Violence Against Women, Gender Equality, Domestic Violence, Rape and Sexual Harassment are discussed and its negative impacts on

the society. It hoped to gain people's views and perceptions on how we can work together in addressing these issues.

The Centre welcomes any suggestions, questions, comments and recommendations on strategies that will best influence men's mindsets causing changes in their attitudes and behavior to stop violence against women and children also to promote gender equality.

This program has really helped the Centre's work and its services provided.

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Case Study 1

Don't risk your life to a partner that abuse you every day

It doesn't always easy to talk about how I experience life in this age. When I was 3 years old my dad left. I was the only child and 80 my mom worked hard for me and her family. When I was 8 years old my mom passed away. Everything went wrong. It was because I always make bad decisions. I started to smoke cigarette when I go to college.

After two years I came to Tongatapu to my dad's side. Then I started to cope up with how

they live their life, drinking alcohol and smoke weed almost every day. I choose that wrong environment to do all that kind of things thinking, it counts. I passed form 6 in 2008. The next year I went to Tertiary Institute. By the end of the first semester I met this guy who asked me out.

I started to lie to my family in many ways to go somewhere else just to be with him. And so I lose my virginity, one month later, he got me pregnant. After I gave birth, he left me with our child which he is a little boy and he was 5 months old. My heart torn into pieces thought it could heal by going out with another guy so I do the same thing all over again.

One day I think I want to put an end to all my painful times so I married him. I worked on that time at the Westpac Bank of Tonga and so he became jealous every day and hit me. I was almost

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Up-skilling Journalists and Advocates on Reporting Family Violence

A one week workshop was held at the Basilica of St. Antonio Padua from the 15th to the 19th of April.

This workshop was organized by the National Planning Committee for the International Women's Day under the Secretariat of the Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

More than forty participants from different Ministries whom were relevant stakeholders were there. This training aimed at building capacity of journalists and advocates to write and report on Family Violence. Also to use statistics and information to put Family Violence and its prevention onto the public agenda.

Again, to write real stories about real victims using best media practice (journalism). Also to build awareness of 2012 Family Protection Bill and to established strong information sharing, networking and maintain partnership between media, government ministries and the community.

Topics covered were Putting Family Violence in Perspective, Statistics on Domestic Violence in Tonga, Analysis of top local Family Violence stories and panel of frontline NGOs whom are service providers.

Lesila To'ia and Tupou M. Lanumata attended on behalf of the WCCC. Guest speakers also stressed the importance of reporting family violence hence it is a great burden to the nation as a whole. The Police Commissioner, Grant O'Fee emphasized "it is wrong to hit your wife and the police have a duty to assist and help the victim."

Solicitor General, 'Aminiasi Kefu talked about the Family Protection Bill. He elaborated on the Offence and Penalty, "it is good to have a deterrent so that whenever an offender starts to attack, he or she should think twice about the penalty and consequence before committing such crimes."

The Governor General of the Tonga National Reserve Bank, Mrs. Siosi Cocker Mafi talked about the economic cost of family violence in Tonga, "although a formal study have not been done, we can estimate and make approximation in relation and comparing with our neighboring countries like Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. It is more than a million dollar, so we must do something about it."

The workshop was facilitated by Stephanie Edmond from New Zealand and financially as-

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"Training deepen the knowledge of WCCC staff on Sexual Abuse"

The Australian Federal Police conducted a one week workshop from the 22nd - 26th of April at the Longolongo Police Station.

A representative from the WCCC was invited to attend due to the close linkage to the services that they offer.

A presentation was done by the CET, Lesila To'ia on the works that the Centre does especially when it comes to sexual crimes.

"I am very happy that I learnt a lot from this workshop especially on how we should treat survivors of sexual abuse. It widened and deepened my knowledge and understanding,

whereas it is a sensitive topic to discuss and talk about.

I was also impressed with the discussion of police officers during my presentation.

Police practices and the Centre's roles were clearly defined, as to avoid confusions and



Lesila L. To'ia

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“MALO ‘AUPITO!!!”

Thank you to all the following persons and organisations for their donations to the Women & Children Crisis Centre.

- ◆ Manager & Staff of Scenic Hotel
- ◆ Mary Fonua & Matangi Tonga Online
- ◆ Dr. Veisia Matoto
- ◆ Gary Tufui
- ◆ Sera's family and friends
- ◆ Bobbette Odell
- ◆ 'Iuna Taumoepeau
- ◆ Lynly from Australia



Left: Donations from Sera's families and friend from Australia, she's an Australian volunteer; clothes, shoes, fomulas for babies, diapers, wipers and toys and other things for kids.

Below: Sera in the middle with family members and friends visiting the Centre with the Director of WCCC and few of the Centre's staff.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!



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Case Study 2

“I jump out of the van and call for help”

I married young. We were very much in love. It all started when we start to live together. He would have an affair with other women. He uses to beat me every day and cut my hair with a knife. He always come with his friends and drinks in our house. He made sit at a corner and do whatever he ordered. Whenever he had an argument I would apologies but he never listen to me. He threatens me and says if he'll buy a girl its ok because I have money, I am just his house wife. He use to go out with friends every weekend and told me to stay home.

We have children but he didn't change. They saw us every day arguing and the problem be-

cause of his behavior. They saw the way he treat me like a slave. One evening he came drunk, he told me to warm his food, but there was something he was angry with something, he push me to the wall, he kick my stomach and punched my face and also cut my hair with a knife. I look around and ran to the neighbor and ask for help. They took me to the hospital for treatment then from there to the police station to take my statement, I wanted to charge my husband.

Later I saw my husband came straight to me and say sorry for what he did. He start talking to me nicely and said that he just realize what he did is bad and promise me he'll never beat and treat me bad. At this point I started thinking that he is cared about me now, so I decided to go back home with him.

As soon as we got home, he pushed me inside the house, closes the door and started to bash me up again. While beating me he said that it was what I asked for since I wanted to let the public know what he had done to me.

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Looking at the National Strategic Plan for HIV/STI

The WCCC was represented to a one week workshop at the Tonga Family Health Association.

This workshop aimed at reviewing the last National Strategic Plan for HIV/STI and to suggest recommendations for the next NSP.

Since Domestic Violence, rape, child abuse are very closely link to STI/HIV, a very de-

tailed, positive and fruitful discussion went well during the workshop.

Government Ministries, NGOs and Stakeholders were there for preparing of the next NSP. The participants were eager to lobby and push forward this agenda to the public and recognize its relationships and linkages to each other as

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WCCC carry out awareness program to Sia'atoutai Theological College

In March and April, the CET carried out two awareness programs to Sia'atoutai Theological College. There were about 30 students of whom most of them were first year.

These sessions were in line with their Counseling and Pastoral topics. The students found it very helpful, especially that most of them will become pastors. Then the skills of Counseling and Pastoral Care

are very important to the roles and responsibilities that they will play.

The Lecturer thanked the Centre for the works that it does. He hoped that this is the beginning of a network between the college and the Centre. He believed that only through working together, we'll be able to address the issues and problems that we

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