



Jan - Mar 2013

Mo'ui Ke Fiefia

WOMEN AND CHILDREN CRISIS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Creating a Kingdom that is Violence free

Email: wccrisiscentre@gmail.com, Website: www.wccctonga.org, Phone: 22 240, Fax: 22 290

Malo e Leleli and Welcome back to our Newsletter ...

First of all - many apologies to those of you who made communication regarding our newsletters, which have been put on hold over the last 9 months.

I am happy to report that our Communications teams have received a brand new laptop with new software and gadgets, donated by Leeanne Torpey, a dear friend and Australian volunteer of the Centre. Leeanne is now based in Australia but spent 2 years with our team during 2009-2011.

Our old computer, unfortunately had run its course and as a result we lost all our files, software and stories collected. Tupou, our communications officer, has worked tirelessly over the last 9 months to re-build

our communications section and with a brand new laptop, she is committed to bringing all our friends up-to-date! So, here it is!

You will receive two newsletters back-to-back Jan to

Jan - Mar 2013

In Jan - Mar 2013,

Women - 83

Children - 61

(24 girls/37 boys)

Men - 12

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

[Full Story](#)

'Real Stories: Real Women: Break the Silence that Allows the Violence' - IWD 2013

The 8th of March is the International Women's Day commemorated globally. This Universal annual event was held at the Davina House, Ma'ufanga. Women from all walks of life were there to witness and support marking this important day. Members of the clergy, diplomatic corps, distinguish guests also graced the commemoration event with their presence.

The event was led by a prayer, then the welcome speech by the CEO of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mr. Lopeti Senituli. Services providers then talked about their services offered. These NGOs were the Ma'a Fafine mo Famili (MFF), Tonga National Centre for Women and Children (TNCWC), Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC), and the Domestic Violence Unit of the Ministry of Police from the government.

This year's theme was "Real stories, Real women." Case studies were presented as witness and evidence to the increasing rate of violence and abuse that women and girls were subjected to.

The highlight of the day was the launching of

booklets that documented real stories of real women by the Guest of Honour, Hon. Frederica Fatafehi 'o Lapaha Tuita. She also acknowledged the works of the organizing committee, service provider, MIA, and other stakeholders for the collective effort made to



Hon. Frederica Fatafehi Lapaha Tuita, Guest of Honour on celebrating the International Women's Day 2013.

[Full Story](#)

Pacific Sub-Region Takes the Lead in Holding Sub-Regional Meetings on the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality

[Manhattan, New York: 03 March 2013] Out of the six sub-regional members of the Commonwealth Secretariat's *Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group (CGPMG)*, the only sub-region who successfully reported that it had held a meeting, since the last CGPMG meeting in March 2012, to deliberate on the progress of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality (PoA) was the Pacific.



Above: Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Lord Vaea presenting the Pacific Sub-Regional Report at the 10th Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group Meeting, Manhattan New York.



Above: Form left to Right: 'Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Polotu Fakafanua-Paunga, Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs Lord Vaea and Viliami Malolo.



Above: Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs Lord Vaea presenting appreciation gift to Commonwealth Secretariat Representative Esther Eghobamien, Interim Director Social Transformation Programmes with Deputy CEO Women's Affairs Polotu Fakafanua-Paunga and 'Ofakilevua Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

The Pacific report was delivered by the Hon. Lord Vaea from the Kingdom of Tonga, Minister of Internal Affairs of which the Women's Affairs falls under. Highlighted in the report were key themes that had been deliberated on at the sub-regional meeting in February 2013. The report stated that for the Pacific member countries there was a focus on the development of relevant policy and legal in regards to addressing violence against women and temporary special measures to increase the participation of women in politics. Progressing law reform to ensure compliance with CEDAW in general was also noted in the region in the last 12 months.

The report also noted that in terms of the challenges faced by the Pacific sub-region, the lack of political will and support for

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Tonga Committed to Increasing Women's Participation in Parliament

[Manhattan, New York: 03 March 2013] Despite the fact that eleven female candidates stood in Tonga's last general elections in 2010 and were unsuccessful in securing a seat in Parliament, the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Lord Vaea made an intervention at the 10th Commonwealth National Women's Machinery Meeting held at the African Union Building in New York, that Tonga is committed to looking at strategies of increasing women's political participation both at the local level and national level.

The Hon. Minister informed the meeting that the Tonga Government, despite the unsuccessful elections for female candidates, had nonetheless appointed externally a female Minister to Cabinet, Dr. 'Ana Taufeu'ulungaki to the Portfolio of the Ministry of Education.

In terms of Education, the Hon. Minister high-

lighted the fact that females in Tonga have achieved gender parity in education. The Minister noted that females are excelling well at all levels of Education and Training in relation to access to Education and Training as well as achievements in Education and Training as compared to other parts of the Pacific. Tonga has also achieved great success in providing universal access to primary education, and that the Government is looking to address other challenges in secondary and vocational education.

In relation to Health, ensuring women's access to adequate health care services has resulted in low maternal death rates for Tongan women. Throughout National Development Plans and National Strategic Plans, the government of Tonga has made priority of including maternal and child health programs which provide consistency and sustainability over the years.

[Full Story](#)

Case Study 1

Seven years of marriage, seven years of pain

A firsthand account of reporting domestic violence from a client at WCCC.

I think to myself that he's the right person, with his smiling face, soft voice when we were still going out. He love and care for me.

I was shocked after our wedding for a few months, I realized he have a new attitude. He gets angry all the time, show by his face and his voice and he starts drinking and going out with friends. At the same year I get pregnant on our eldest child. He first hit me when I was three months pregnant, because of not sitting with him at the kitchen until he finishes eating. At that time he was drunk. He punches, push and kick me and saying bad things to me. From that day, I cried and hurt myself of what he did to me.

It comes to a time, he wants me, whatever he said to me to be said it at once, do whatever he wants and never ask anywhere he'll go, what he does and who is he texting with him on his phone, and if I don't do that, he will do something bad

to me.

The time he gets drunk, I always try to make him food for him to come and eat. Most of the time of our marriage life he always away from home especially at night time, and sometimes I didn't know where he sleep that night until he came home the next morning.

One day he go out and return back until the next day he was drunk and I didn't know that he gets angry because we didn't have any meat but he did knew that before he go out that there's no meat to have it with our haka (root crops). I was busy trying to make the fire to make the food, he gets a piece of wood and hit me on the head and I fell on the ground and out of conscience. Luckily one of our neighbor saw us and make his way to us, he told me that my husband was just stand there laughing. He tries to wake me up and he pours a bucket of water on me and I get up. He tries to take me to the hospital but my husband didn't want him to and he stops me.

After a few months, I realized he spent most of his time on phone and texting. One day he gets ready to go to the bush, he left but he forgot his phone. His phone ringing and I know that he forgot it. I got his phone and it was a text message and I read it. From my understanding of reading the text message it is another lady that she's staying with

[Full story](#)

Important visitation to WCCC

The WCCC is more than happy to welcome visitors to the centre.

Some of these previous visitations are in line with the works that they do.

Some visitors want to know more about the centre and are interested in the centre's works.

If you want something about the centre, do not hesitate to call, even drop in at the centre or visit our website: www.wccctonga.org.



Above: HRH. Princess Latufuipeka Tuku'aho and one of her senior staff, Mr. Falekava Kupu, Director and few of the staff of WCCC on Her Royal Highness visitation day.

[Full Story](#)

- HRH Princess Latufuipeka Tuku'aho, Tonga's High Commissioner's to Australia - Canberra
- Mr. Martin Fidler, Deputy British High Commissioner - Suva Fiji

Case Study 2

"I thought this is the last day of my life"

A firsthand account of reporting domestic violence from a client at WCCC.

I was the only daughter of four children. My parents divorced because my father was having an affair with another woman, then our mom left overseas and leave us to stay with our father.

During this time we were still at school, and it was my last year at tertiary school. I come across many problems living with my father's fiancé, she need us to do everything she tells us and if not she will tell us to our dad and he will punished us.

I was very sad because I didn't get use to these things while we were staying together with our mother.

One Saturday I went with the girls' next door

swimming. My father came back from work we have no food yet and his fiancé told my dad that how many times she told me to do the haka but i refuse to do it and I went swimming.

While we were swimming, my younger brother came and call me back and I didn't care. He came again then we went home. I haven't got in to our home my father walk towards me with a piece of hose and beat me up.

He beat me so bad, I can't even stand up but crawl around the ground and I lost one of my front teeth.

Luckily my aunty showed up and starts yelling at my dad to stop. She took me to her house and cleans myself and my bruises and make me food and to take me to the hospital but I didn't want too because I was too shy.

After these seven years, this is the first time I have the courage to share it to one of the WCCC's staff to help me. I have a family now with 2 kids but I need help in raising my kids and avoid me from punishing them just because of what I have come across and I didn't want it to happen to my kids and my family.

[Full Story](#)

How to keep our children safe

The Women & Children Crisis Centre participated in a Child Protection and Safeguarding workshop from the 4th - 8th of February. "This is an important workshop for it revisited an important area of looking at how we keep our children safe. For us parents, teachers and workers at the Crisis Centre, we re-explored and make a deeper analysis of the weak sides when we brought up and near children." Said WCC's CET

Lesila Toi'a.

We also formed up a network to cooperate and work together more practical ways of looking after our children. An example was looking at positive disciplinary strategies to enforce stopping of corporal punishment especially in schools.

Another area was looking at how to develop a

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Best practice and knowledge for police officer

The Community Education Trainer Advocate, Mrs. Lesila To'ia attended a 2 day workshop at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi Fiji which took place on the 28th and 29th.

This workshop aimed at what should be practice and knowledge for police officers that deal with domestic violence cases. It was also during this workshop that a survey and ques-

tionnaires was formed for frontline police officers that has already deal or come across a domestic violence case.

I would like to thank the WCCC's Director for giving me this opportunity, also acknowledging the PPDVP for the financial support that made possible this workshop.

[Full Story](#)

Outreach programs to mothers and guardians in some of the government primary schools

During the month of February, the Community Education Awareness and Advocacy Team carried out awareness programs to some women whom are mothers and guardians to school children of primary schools.

These were some women at the Government Primary Schools of Fasi moe Afi, Ngele'ia, Longolongo, Nuku'alofa, Ma'ufanga and also a women group in Kolomotu'a.

These women were very happy to hear the programme. Some women said, that even though they have heard of the Centre's works, but this is the first time for them to listen and

sit in with the officers from the Centre and listen to them directly.

"We have really learnt a lot, and we want to learn more and to understand more because what we believed is totally contradicts to what we learn today." They also said, this is an important issue to address publicly to help to end the violence against women and children so that we will live in a peaceful and a safer society.

The Community Education Team is very happy to thanks all these women (mothers and

[Full Story](#)