



Mo'ui Ke Fiefia

WOMEN AND CHILDREN CRISIS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Creating a Kingdom that is Violence free

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Malo e Leleli!

'Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil Likiliki - WCCC Director

The Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture (MEWAC) has publically noted their concern on the high drop-out rates of boys from the primary and secondary school levels, where girls are doing much better. It's a gender issue that needs to be addressed.

However, we also must not lose sight of the fact that in the workforce the actual play-out of leadership positions shows us that men are still dominating these higher positions, Director, CEO and Ministerial positions - positions that play a key role in decision making processes, are largely held by men.

So while we agree to address this issue of boys doing not so well in primary and secondary school, we must also be ready to address the gender issue of women's lack of representation at the highest positions in the workforce, particularly government positions. We cannot address one gender issue and ignore another when they are so

intimately linked.

Policies and programs currently developed by our new government must take into consideration a meaningful gender analysis in all its planning stages. With the National Strategic Development Plan 9, we question the process in which it has been drafted and developed. Has it undergone a gender cri-

tique? We missed the opportunity to show this in our

Statistics Mar 2011

In Mar 2011

18 Women

2 Children

(both young girls)

1 Man

= a total of 21 clients
sought refuge from
violence at WCCC

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UN Women Consultation comes to Tonga

Consultation is taking place all over the Pacific to contribute to the development of the 2 year Strategy for the newly formed body of the United Nations, UN Women, which aims to advance gender equality.

The consultation took place at the Council of Churches in Tonga, with Government Ministries, Members of Civil Society and Donor Organizations meeting to advise on the best way for UN Women to work to improve the quality of life for women in Tonga.

The consultation was co-ordinated by 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki, the Director of the Women and Children Crisis Centre "It was exciting to bring together all those who work tirelessly to promote gender equality in Tonga. We hope the UN Women will enable us to work together in order to improve the quality of life for women and girls all over the Kingdom".

Formerly known as UNIFEM, UN Women has the follow-



Members from various organisations who participated in the Un Women consultation at the Council of Churches at Vaololoa.

ing themes:

1. Expand women's voice, leadership and participations
2. End Violence Against Women
3. Strengthen implementation of women's peace and security agenda
4. Enhance women's economic empowerment

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Commission on the Status of Women 2011

Education, technology and employment.

These three words and their importance for women were on the table for discussion at the 55th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Held in New York this year from Feb 22 - March 4th, CSW is one of the most important annual meetings to promote gender equality. It is coordinated as a part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This year's meeting was the first run under the newly formed body UN Women.

This year's theme was "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

Tonga is one of the 192 United Nations member states but was unable to send a representative to CSW this year. However Tonga has recently released a progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Director of the Women and Children Crisis Centre, Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki said "Tonga has a lot of progress to make to achieve its international commitments; especially in regards to incorporating a more comprehensive gender analysis throughout all the MDGs."



Commission on the Status of Women

CSW reiterated the importance of nations maintaining their obligations to the MDGs.

The 55th CSW outcomes document included improving access by women and girls to education, especially in the fields of science and technology, with key resolutions on gender and HIV/AIDS and climate change.

The Commission highlighted concern for the increase in dropout rates of female students in many parts of the world, including Tonga, owing to multiple discrimination and factors that impede girls' participation in education "If girls become pregnant while they are in school, unfortunately many lose access to completing their education. It's a violation of their rights and we end up in a situation where young mothers are being further disadvantaged" said Guttenbeil-Likiliki. CSW also assessed the progress of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which aims to achieve full and

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WCCC celebrates International Womens Day

The centenary of International Womens Day was celebrated across the Kingdom of Tonga - recognizing womens achievements and the need to do more to empower women in our society.

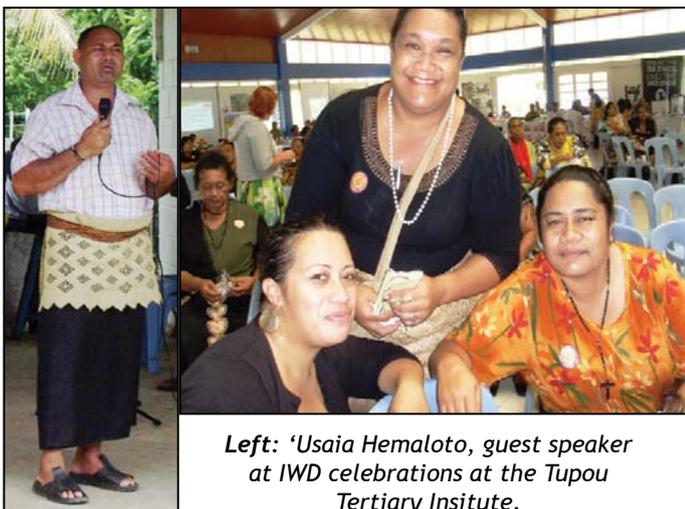
The Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC, which is the Kingdom's only Non Government Organisation working to eliminate Violence Against Women and Children) celebrated by attending an array of events.

"It's exciting, we love IWD at WCCC. We get an opportunity to appreciate the success that women have made in their struggle for what they deserve - to have equal rights, access and opportunities as men" said Sr. Anuncia Fifita, Safe House Manager of the Crisis Centre.



Above: from left to right; Betty Blake, Lepolo Taunisila (WCCC Trustee) and Shamima Ali at QSC's Hall on International Women's Day.

Left: Staff hand out hundreds of International Women's Day stickers at the IWD event held at Queen Salote College Hall.



Left: 'Usaia Hemaloto, guest speaker at IWD celebrations at the Tupou Tertiary Insitute.

A prayer breakfast was held by the Westpac Bank of Tonga, who raised funds for the Women and Children Crisis Centre through proceeds from the sale of purple International Women's Day ribbons. Three grants for Pacific women and girls pursuing education were also announced, totaling just under \$2000. In announcing the grants General Manager of Westpac Tonga, Paul Wilkinson said, "Our involvement with the International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present and future."

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