



May - Jul 2012

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

There is a reason why pornography is on the rise in Tonga. There are also reasons why our young are getting involved in such practices. Yet everyone is quick to judge the youth of our country and point fingers and shake heads in disapproval of why our youth are so *different* compared to the youth of yester-years.

Aside from pornography, the WCCC continues to see an increase in the reporting of incest, sexual harassment and sexual abuse among our children. Why? Are our laws insufficient, are they not being implemented well? Are our monitoring systems weak? Is our education system empowering our young to know what the consequences are? Are we educating our young to understand respect, gender equality and the rights and dignity of every single human? Are we as parents spending enough time with our young? Are we engaged in meaningful dialogue with them, are we preventing and protecting them from abuse and longterm exposure to violence? Are we tackling the issue of youth and unemployment and poverty

Do our most disadvantaged youth have non-barriered access to key services and support?

The Tonga Family Health Association continues to report an increase in sexually transmitted diseases

(STIs) among our youth and we have seen reports published by the Tonga National Youth Congress and Tonga Trust where it clearly highlights the issues and struggles our youth are facing -have we bothered to listen? In these reports we have found that there are too many of our young girls getting married for no reason other than 'because there is nothing else

May - Jul 2012

In May, Jun & Jul 2012

Women - 48

Male - 11

Children - 23

(15 girls, 8 boys)

84 = a total of clients

sought refuge from

violence at WCCC

[Full story](#)

Statistics review for the 1st half of the year

For the 1st half of the year a total number of 156 clients sought the centre's support services, including women, children and male clients. Domestic violence continues to be the most common source of support provided by WCCC, although reported cases of child abuse in 2012 have increased as have sexual violence cases including higher incidences of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

It has only been a year and a half since the centre has been established yet WCCC's statistics reflect the broader society trend in which more people are reporting incidences of violence against women.

The high peak season is noted between the months of Feb - Apr and slightly decreasing in May - June which is noted as the low peak season. Family obligations impact on the time and availability of women to report, which sees a dip in reporting during the beginning of the school year and also dur-

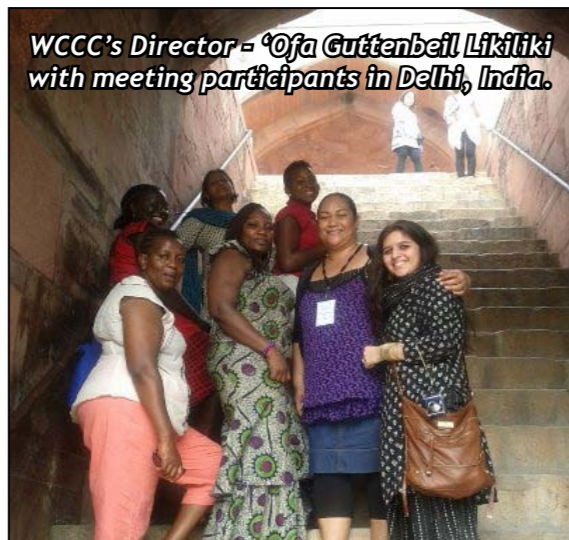
Case type	Number of case
Domestic Violence	114
Sexual Violence - Incest case 2 - Rape 4 - Sexual Harassment 1 - Sexual Assault 1	8
Child Abuse - Neglect 7 - Physical, Emotional and Verbal Abuse 24	31
General Assault - Attempted Suicide 2 - Unknown case 1	3

[Full story](#)

Stakeholder Engagement for Influencing Policy

In July, WCCC Director 'Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki was invited to attend the Commonwealth Leadership Exchange organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and hosted by Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), New Delhi, India.

The Leadership Exchange aimed at developing the potential of civil society leaders to meet the needs of the sector. "Participants took an active role on the Exchange, bringing their own knowledge, experiences and expertise to train and educate their peers. They will had as much to give as to learn and the exchange provided an opportunity to meet other leading thinkers and actors who are challenging traditional views and methods. The programme was thus structured around a combination of action learning, peer support and structured discussion and training" according to Guy Holloway from the Commonwealth Foundation.



WCCC's Director - 'Ofa Guttenbeil Likiliki with meeting participants in Delhi, India.

The 2012 Leadership Exchange focused on 'Stakeholder Engagement for Influencing Policy'. The Leadership Exchange provided an opportunity for leaders from across the Commonwealth to exchange their own knowledge, experiences and expertise to train and educate their peers, while learning from one another.

Recognising the need to engage, understand and incorporate a wealth of knowledge, opinions and approaches, governments are increasingly looking to civil society to present new, alternative and progressive views for the future. Thus the Exchange aimed to shape civil society leaders to meet this demand and have an impact on policy. "The exchange took things to a higher level where we were constantly challenged to look at improving ways and methods of influencing government policy - and the only way we could really offer any

[Full story](#)

Case Study 1

"He tried to drown me and told me we will have sex and then kill me"

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

I have four children with my husband, two girls and two boys. We have our own house and a fishing boat which help us with our financial matters. Ever since we've been married, I've always a faithful wife to my husband and I love him so much never thinking of leaving him or there's any other man is better than him, but only him.

It comes to a time he starts to play with my love and our marriage start to mess up. He beats me, avoiding me from going to any gathering occasion and I just do what he tells me to do, just because I love him as my husband and I can't take him to court because I think to myself that will also hurt my children, then we always try to solves our problems between us even though he's the one causing it.

It comes to a situation I fed up with him so I decided to leave him but still, no police involved. We went to a lawyer and we decide we will half our children, he will take two to take care of them and I will take two and they will stay at our home and I will rent a place for myself and our other two kids, but at the same time I will provide everything for them, like food etc...

We agree all with that and live separately but he still owns me. He drinks most nights and still come to where I was staying and harass me.

One night I visit with one of the girls who work for me to check on our fishing boat. When we got there, the two boys who suppose to look after the boat were gone, so the girl got down to check a freezer in the boat, suddenly my husband showed up on the window from outside walking towards me. I was asking where he had been and I wasn't finish with my sentence, I blacked out.

He bunches me right on my left eye, pulls me down and kicks me, and then threw me into the sea. He came down after me and tries to drown me. The girl was with me run and call for help.

The police and the soldiers arrived but he already took off my pants and his pants and told me

[Full story](#)

Outreach programs to schools and communities

The Community Education Awareness and Advocacy Team carried out five awareness programs in May and June. Three programs were in the communities including the women groups of 'Isileli, Hala'ovave and Vaololoa, one with the Principals of Tongatapu Primary Schools and Tapuni Siliva College.

The program with the Women Groups, they were very happy. Majority of them said, that this is the first time for them to know the works and the services provided by the Centre, "I'm very happy to learn about the Centre and I'm thankful of the vital work that they do. We are fortunate to hear there is a place we can run to for your safety, especially women, wives and girls whom are seriously and severely abused in any form and therefore find their lives at risks. Thank you so much for the important work that you are doing", said one of the participants.



Above: Teachers and students of Nukunuku Middle School were WCCC's conducting an awareness program.



Below: Community Education Trainer, Lesila To'ia while conducting a session on DV and Child Abuse to Tonga High School's girls student.

change our mind set for we have been brought up with the belief that corporal punishment is a way of discipline method and we practice it, even though we know for sure is illegal, but with the information we gained this morning, it really open our eyes to look at it from a different perspective. We will try to stop it with regards to disciplinary methods and strategies in order to create and promote our school a free violence environment.

The Centre's Male Advocate, Mr. 'Usaia Hemaloto also displayed a booth with the Centre's awareness resources at the Maamaloa Ground during the FWC's Annual Conference. Centre's flyers, statistics and other resources including

At the principals meeting, they were surprised at the Centre's statistics. Their concern was for the increase rate of sexual abuse especially children. Although it is known that while a few cases are reported but there are some are still swept under the carpet and are not reported.

The principals agreed that the Ministry of Education should work more closely with the Centre in trying to address this issue. They also concern about child neglected which also a contributing factor to child abuse. These neglected children are vulnerable to other forms of violence and abuse. The Centre acknowledges the Ministry of Education for inviting the Centre to be part of the meeting.

At Tapuni Siliva College, the principal was thankful for the program and reminded the staff and students that abuse and violence are not acceptable at school. One of the male staff said, "we will try to



Below: WCCC's Male Advocate, 'Usaia Hemaloto while conducting a session on DV with the Tonga High School's boys student.

[Full story](#)

Government grants 50,000 to WCCC

50,000 pa'anga has been granted to the WCCC for the 2012/2013 financial period. According to the WCCC Director, <Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, <the grant is for the operations of the Safe House, rations for the victims temporarily residing there and its rent. There is also a portion to assist with the Head Office rent located in Fanga.

The grant is welcomed and I can only hope that it is also a sign that the political will and prioritization of eliminating violence against women and girls is on the increase.

In 2011, a total of 44 clients sought refuge at the Mo'ui Ke Fiefia Safe House. This year from January to June, a total of 31 clients have sought



Minister of Finance,
Hon. Lisiate 'Akolo.

[Full story](#)

“MALO ‘AUPITO!!!”

Thank you to all the following persons and organisations for their donations to the WCCC during the months of May - July;

- ◆ Chattams Pacific
- ◆ FWC's Christian Education Dept.
- ◆ Salesi Fineanganofa and Family
- ◆ Ocean of Light High School
- ◆ Althea Shuster
- ◆ Westpac Bank of Tonga
- ◆ 'Amelia Tu'i'onetoa and Family
- ◆ Mele Tonga 'Ofahulu and Family



L-R: Sonia Hallmark with her daughter Beatrice and WCCC's Finance Officer, Kilisitina Pifeleti with a brand new fisher and paykel washing machine to the WCCC. The washing machine was a first prize for a raffle draw by Molisi Tonga.

MALO SONIA AND BEATRICE!!!
The washing machine will be used by the victims of the Safe House.

THANK YOU ALL!!!

[Full story](#)

“Impact of Vote of No Confidence on Minister of Education, Women's Affair and Culture (MEWAC) Portfolio - Hon. Dr. 'Ana Taufe'ulungaki

The Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) is concerned about the possible negative impact that the upcoming vote-of-no-confidence will have on women's representation in parliament.

“It is a real big shame because under the leadership of the Hon. Dr. 'Ana Taufe'ulungaki, the Ministry has undergone a series of visionary changes and this has come about because of the skills, qualifications and significant years of experience in the education sector that the Minister has brought with her to the ministerial portfolio, moreover, she has moved mountains where it has seemed impossible such as championing a submission to cabinet to approve a review of existing laws with the overall aim of developing a more comprehensive legislation on violence against women and children” says 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Director of the WCCC.

The problem is that the call for a vote of no confidence means that if the current Prime Minister is voted out, his entire line-up of Ministers will also lose their positions. As a result, the only female in

parliament, Hon. Minister Dr. Taufe'ulungaki will lose her portfolio. In addition, it is no surprise that the opposition lead by 'Akilisi Pohiva are opposed to 'external appointments' which means that the likelihood of Dr. Taufe'ulungaki returning under a new line-up is highly unlikely.

“Unless of course the opposition treads carefully and assesses the achievements of the current Ministers to date of which I have no doubt if they were to do



Minister of Education,
Dr. 'Ana Maui Taufe'ulungaki.

[Full story](#)

Case Study 2

“He cut myself with a knife, pokes me with a burning fork just right on my breast and ties me with a rope and hangs me upside down ...”

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

I have been married for six years. My father warned me of my husband's family because he knew them very well, but I didn't listen to him, because I love my husband very much. But now, all what has been explained to me by my father before I got married are all happen and it's true.

At the very first day we marry he starts beating me. His father owns a piece of land at one of the island here in Tonga and we move there and planting Kava to make money.

We both work hard but especially myself, looking back at home to my parents they were both too old and not in good health.

We got very good money from our Kava plantation, but my husband spend it all at once without giving me any of that money. He spends it on alcohol, drugs and on women. I fed up with his behavior, so I decided to come back to Tongatapu and stay with my parents.

One night he calls and told me to open the gate for him and I told him to go away and stop bothering me because I'm sleeping. I thought he play a joke on me, because at this time he was still at the island, but he keeps on telling me to open the door and I hang up the phone.

He rang again and kept telling me to open the door because he's outside and I told him off and he told me to open it or he'll kick it to open and he swears at me. This time I know for sure that he's outside. I was scared and my stomach starts aching and I felt weird.

He came in and starts yelling at me who's I'm having an affair with and I have to make up a name as to answer him because it was better for me to lie at this time or else he'll do something to me.

I was so scared because I knew him very well and all what he has done to me. There were times he cut me with a knife, he poke me with a burning

[Full story](#)

“Let us make a change for we are the future ...”

Women and Children Crisis Centre staff, Vika ‘Akau’ola was honored to join other 45 young people between the age of 16 - 30 from 29 countries around the world in a 3 day Global Unite Youth Forum to End Violence against Women and Girls. This meeting was taken place in Bangkok, Thailand from the 18th to the 20th of May this year.

This meeting was organized by the UN Women Group in Bangkok and ‘Akau’ola was selected together with other two members; one from Fiji and the Marshall Islands to represent the Pacific Region to the meeting.

The meeting was all about sharing between the participants in their experiences with the work that they are doing in relate to the theme but most importantly the ideas that they will come up with to put as action plans to stop violence against women and girls.

“Young people hold the potential to make a change, all they need is inspiration and motivation “, said ‘Akau’ola when she was interviewed by the Pacific Beat, Radio Australia during the meeting in Bangkok.

Vika currently works at the centre’s safe house, a temporarily shelter for the survivors of violence and any form of abuse. “I was inspired to continue on doing this important work that I am doing right now and

[Full story](#)



Above: Vika ‘Akau’ola together with 45 young participants form 29 countries after their 3 day Global Unite Youth Forum in Bangkok, Thailand.

Inaugural WCCC AGM

WCCC held its second Annual General Meeting on Friday 18th of May 2012 at the Free Wesleyan Hall of Fanga-‘o-Pilolevu.

WCCC Director, ‘Ofaki-levuka Guttenbeil Likiliki presented a brief summary from the 2011 annual report and also presented the 2011 audited financial accounts.

The Director acknowledged the wealth of support received in 2011, “Although we came across many ups and downs with varying challenges we couldn’t have done it without your help and support through various methods: materials, resources, financial assistant, technical skills and mentoring, all of which has encouraged and enabled us to continue doing what we are doing”, said Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

For 2011, the WCCC’s main funding support came



Below: Director, Trustees, the staff of WCCC and members from various organisations were participated in the Annual General Mseeting.

from Mama Cash, Aus-Aid, Global Fund for Women, UN Women and Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre.

Chairing the meeting was Dr. Sunia Foliaki, pioneer member of the WCCC Trustees Management Col-

[Full story](#)

Case Study 3

“Only 13 years old”

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

I am thirteen years of age. I was repeated in form one twice because of missing school too much. There were ten of us children in the family. My parents separated and my mother was having a de-facto relationship with children of her own while my father was having a de-facto relationship with another woman with children of their own. My father took four of us, myself and my twin sister and two of my brothers, while my mother took five. One of us died from an accident in a very young age.

My stepmother sometime sends me and my twin sister to sell leis (kaho) instead of going to school. She would make us stay home and babysit her babies; we would do the house work, including cooking and washing. If she thinks that we’ve been misbehave than we will go without dinner that evening. We tend to run away a lot from home to our grandparents, but she would come

and get us back and warn us and sometimes make our father hit us not to go to our grandparents. We then run away and live with other people but she would find us eventually and bring us home. People thought that she loved us when she indents to find us and bring us home but it was only so that we come home and do the work.

As we run away, we do robbery sometimes in order to survive, and we weren’t interested in school anymore. Along the way I got raped three times, the first two rapes they were strangers, I did speak up but no one believed me, the third time, he was the neighbor who happen to live together with his girlfriend and when I told her about him raping me, the girlfriend went to the police and report it. I was then taken to the Safe House. While I was at Safe House I was given help so that I can be able to see things clearly and can be able to see my future ahead of me. Now I regret not going to school, and realize what happens to me when running from home, most likely I will be access to abuse of any kinds. Now I can’t wait to go home and start a new life and go back to school.

Without the Safe House, maybe I was still being out there experiencing different kinds of abuses. I count myself lucky that I did get help on the right time, because something worst might happen to me

[Full story](#)

Case Study 4

“12 Years later I had to seek help”

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

I was only 10 years old when it started. My parents would often tell me to go to the local shop to get everyday necessities for the household like bread, butter and tinned fish.

One day the shop keeper told me to enter through the back door and I did. He told me that he had some chocolates from NZ to share with me - which made me excited.

The next trip to the shop he told me to again enter through the back door. I did as he said. He told me to sit on a small box while he read me a story from a picture book he had. He showed me pictures of women who were naked. He told me not to be afraid and to look at the faces of the women because they were not scared but were happy. He told me to look at their body parts and how beautiful they were and asked me if I wanted to be as beautiful as the women in the

book. He told me to go home and not to tell anyone because I would get a hiding and to keep it our secret. He told me to go back the next day and get some chocolates.

I wasn’t sure if I should go back and I was scared. But my father sent me to the shop and I had to go. When I arrived, the shop keeper told me to enter through the back. He gave me a bar of chocolate to eat and told me to sit down. He told me that he just wanted to compare me to the women in the book and that all I had to do was take my underwear off and open my legs so that he could see if it were the same. He touched himself while he looked at me.

He did this often until one day he actually touched me. I was frightened and I couldn’t tell anyone because I was scared I would get a hiding. I couldn’t take it anymore and one day I told my cousin and she told me that she had a plan.

Every time I would be sent to the shop she would come with me and she would do the purchasing. I could tell that the shop keeper was very angry and he kept asking my cousin where was I? He told her that I had a “mo’ua” a debt to pay and that it was for all the chocolate bars I had eaten. He eventually told my father about the ‘debt’ and my father gave me a hiding.

[Full story](#)