



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 Mo'ui Ke Fiefia Safe House is a temporary safe house for victims and survivors of violence in Tongatapu. It gives women and her children and young girls a safe space to find solace and access the support she needs most. Some clients can stay up to 6 weeks, others 2 days. It all depends on her circumstances and more importantly her safety.

With younger clients, it can be a bit tougher, some can stay for up to 12 months depending again on her situation, particularly if there is a court request that she be taken care of by the Mo'ui Ke Fiefia Safe House.

There are is always a staff member around 24 hours, 7 days a week and meals and accommodation is free for the victim/survivor.

To date, most of the food, furnishing and internet connection have been donated by the public. We've also had wonderful people donating rent money for the safe house when it first established.

Support services for clients accessing the safe house include free counselling, assisting her children to continue accessing education and so much more, and for our younger clients we try to ensure that their lives are not interrupted and that they can continue living normal lives accessing the support services she needs the most.

If you would like to support the great work that the Mo'ui Ke Fiefia Safe House undertakes, please don't hesitate to contact us at our Head Office in Fanga, 22 240. Any donations are a blessing!

Statistics May & June 2011

In May and June 2011

19 Women

2 Men

13 Children

= a total of 34 clients sought refuge from violence at WCCC

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2011 Camp GLOW - Ha'apai

WCCC participated in the 2011 Girls Empowerment Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) held recently in Ha'apai. Community Education Trainer, Lesila To'ia conducted a presentation on the Centre to the 3 girls



WCCC Community Education Trainer during her presentation on the Centre at the 2011 Girls Empowerment Camp GLOW in Ha'apai.

thankful that there is a place you can turn to for support and help if you come through or experience these types of violence and it is a pity that the centre is at Tongatapu only, but with your 24 hours phone services I know for sure we can pick up the phone and call your centre. Thank you for the empowerment of

and camp counselors. "It was really encouraging and inspiring for me to see this group of young girls eager to hear about the centre. They asked lots of questions about the various forms of abuse, and how the centre deals with these survivors."

One of the participants said "I am



Young girls that participated in the 2011 Girls Empowerment Camp GLOW in Ha'apai.

these women and children who have struggled and suffered a lot."

The young girls were surprised when talking about sexual harassment, for most of them admit that it is common at school, while boys see it as a kind of joke. One girl mentioned that it was an eye opener for them to learn that sexual harassment is a crime for they usually see it as normal.

[Full Story](#)

FWCC's Annual Retreat 2011

Partner organization of WCCC, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, held their annual retreat for 2011 at Yatule Beach Resort, Nadi, Fiji.

WCCC Community Education Trainer Lesila To'ia was in attendance. "It was a great time of bonding, mentoring and learning from each other. We analyzed past and present problems and planned how we could work together to improve and overcome these issues."

Topics covered at the retreat included the Centre's Code of Conduct, the United Nation Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women, the portrayal of women in media, and dealing with challenges to service provision.

"To me personally, the main barriers and challenges

are the society's attitudes to this issue. Some people do not want to talk about it, see it as private matters. And even some people deny that it happens. There is also a weak side from the law for even though the decrees and acts are there but they are not enforced. There is a need for proper legislations and the justice system to ensure that they are effective", Lesila said.

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre has been operating for over 20 years, with the newest branch opening in the northern part of Fiji, Rakiraki Women's Crisis Centre (RWCC). They work closely with the Fiji Women's Rights Movement to promote the empowerment of women in the Pacific.

[Full Story](#)

WCCC Staff attends RTP

"Men and women can stand together and work to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and fight for their rights as we are all equal." The words of WCCC Administration and Communication Officer, Tupou M. Lanumata after attending the Regional Training Programme in Suva Fiji.

The month-long training aimed to educate people about strategies on how to eliminate violence against women and children. It consisted of 38 participants from the region, namely Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji. It was organised by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) with their Director, Shamima Ali as the lead facilitator.

Lanumata indicated that the training taught her that there are many different forms of Violence Against Women. "It was a great opportunity for me to attend this very useful and enlightening training that has given me so much information to really help me with the work that I'm doing".

WCCC staff came back with new ideas for their work in the broader Tongan community. "Violence is a reality for many Tongan women and children. We have to work together with relevant stakeholders and community in trying to address Violence Against Women, by conduct-



Above; FWCC's Director, Shamima Ali presenting to participants during the Regional Training Programme.

Below to the right; Tupou M. Lanumata receiving her certificate of achievement from Rev. Seraima a member of the FWCC's Trustees.



[Full Story](#)



FWCC's Director, Shamima Ali with all the participants of the Regional Training Programme in Suva, Fiji.