



Welcome!

'Ofakilevuka Gутtenbeil-Likiliki, WCCC Coordinator

Despite the immense challenges that we have faced and continue to face as a new organisation, establishing ourselves has been nothing but an overwhelmingly empowering process. While our overall aim is to eliminate violence against women and children in Tonga through free counselling and support services, we are doing this using a human rights-based approach. We are focussing heavily on women and children in Tonga being agents of change rather than just beneficiaries, changing from the "helpless in need" approach to the "claimant of justice and human rights" approach. To enable us to do this more effectively, we will continue lobbying the Government of Tonga to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

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Nov—Jan Statistics

From November to January

26 women sought refuge from violence.

14 client's were Domestic Violence cases and 3 Child Abuse cases.

Of the 13 women who came to the centre in January,

4 were referred to the safe house, with 3 accompanying children.

More stats available here

Male Advocates graduate Women's Human Rights Training



Male advocates from WCCC who attended the training

Twenty male participants completed training to advocate for the elimination of violence against women. , together with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, held Stage II of the Male Advocacy Women's Human Rights Training from 11-15 January 2010.

The training aimed to increase understanding about men's roles in preventing violence. Reverend Tevita Havea, General Secretary of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, was the guest of honour. He highlighted the role of religion in eliminating violence. "We, church leaders,

have to admit that there is violence in every part of the societies in Tonga and we need to show our support to the centre's work by using the prevention strategies in our missions in the communities," said Havea.

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"He told me not to tell anyone..."

First hand account of violence from a client of WCCC

I was 15 when my father began treating me in a way that was morally wrong. He would touch me and say things that you should not say to your daughter. He told me not to tell anyone, especially anyone on my mother's side of the family. I always knew that it was not right - but he is my father.

It made me feel very alone. I felt different to my brothers and sisters. I still feel shame for what has happened.

Now I am 19, and I finally had the courage to tell my aunty on my mother's side about the way my father was treating me. Straight away she told me that we must go to the police, and I was happy to go with her. I was very happy that my aunty listened and understood. I feel that she cares for my safety.

The police took me to the Crisis Centre so that I could stay in the safe house. It is difficult with my family right now. I feel safe and free here at the safe house. Freedom is very important to me - it is a big change from my recent past. I hope that my future will always be free.

[Click here](#) for more case studies



Huge support and donations for the Crisis Centre



Staff of WCCC with Detective Haley Ryan and the \$4800 donation of The Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme

In the past few months, the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) has been receiving ongoing donations from different departments, organisations and individuals, as well as international support, which contribute to the centre's work with the survivors of domestic violence and abuse. People have recognised the importance of the centre's work to the community and started supporting the centre by donating in whatever way they could. These donations include clothes, food and scholarships for both the walk-in clients and also the clients that temporarily stay at the Mo'ui ke Fiefia Safe House.

[Full story](#)

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