



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Women, Youth & Children Affairs



NATIONAL POLICY ON ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The images on the front cover symbolize the experiences of women in Solomon Islands through the years, and the commitment of the government of Solomon Islands, and its citizens, to eliminating violence against women.

The images show some of the many roles and activities of Solomon Islands women in their work (from making money to making speeches) and within their families (getting married and carrying babies), past and present, and their hurts (blackbirding) and happiness (feasting). They celebrate the many efforts that have been and are being made to improve the lives of women in Solomon Islands by stopping violence against women.

The images symbolize movement from the past into the future towards a nation where violence against women does not exist, and shows the involvement of the people of Solomon Islands in local and international campaigns.

The colours of the palm print are those of the Solomon Islands flag, with the stars representing the nine provinces and Honiara symbolising the national commitment to eliminating violence. The palm print is the universal symbol used to show that change is in our hands, and hand in hand we can stop violence against women.

The ancient Greek symbol of the carrier of light, Phosphoros is a circle with a small cross at the bottom. It is used around the world to represent women. Symbolizing unity and sisterhood, it encircles and enfolds the images.

Thanks to the many people who contributed photographs and images
to this cover [including Mere No Save fo Dvelopmen (1986)], and
to Noel Orudiana for his creativity in producing the covers

The inside back cover is a collection of statements associated with local and global campaigns to eliminate violence against women.

Each cover can be used for campaign and advocacy purposes provided credit is given to the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs of the government of Solomon Islands.

The National Policy on Eliminating Violence Against Women

SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
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PRIME MINISTER'S FOREWORD

My government - our Ministers and Backbenchers—have been working to develop long-term solutions to the difficulties that our nation faces. Those challenges are many and varied; and they often interact with each other to create new problems.

As part of our efforts to identify additional ways to address the many underlying causes of our recent national trauma we are working so that we do not 'leave any stone unturned'. Helping our citizens to work towards reconciliation and peace has prompted us to undertake many direct initiatives through the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace, and through the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As our Minister for Women, Youth and Children Affairs describes in the preface, these direct approaches can benefit from complementary efforts by his Ministry and its stakeholders. Whether his Ministry's stakeholders are in government, in the private sector, or amongst our nation's development partners will vary depending upon the circumstances.

The first complementary effort from the Ministry for Women, Youth and Children Affairs is a policy to help us to reduce a form of violence that has a demonstrated effect on future generations: Violence against women. This government has chosen to begin to address that form of violence so that our children will experience less of it in order that our grandchildren might see none of it.

My government will continue to work towards a future where all Solomon Islanders can live and pursue their happiness in harmony.



Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua, MP
Prime Minister

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PREFACE

Our nation has seen too much violence during the past decade. This has come at a cost to Solomon Islands as a young and developing nation. A number of efforts have been and are being made to help groups of people to reconcile their differences and to learn how to move our nation forward in peace and unity.

However, we can and should do more. As is evidenced by the Family Health and Safety Study (SIFHSS) carried out nation wide recently, many of the seeds that sprout into forms of violence are formed in the household. This “domestic violence”, whether we recognise it or not, whether we condone it or not, affects our children. And our children may grow up to expect to do or to receive violence.

We must break this cycle of violence that spreads from one generation to the next. We recognise that not all violence is born in the home. Children's peers sometimes outweigh the work of parents. But we recognise that parents need more help in raising their children to be constructive citizens. This is a basic assumption behind this policy, a policy that government is fully committed to addressing.

Eliminating such violence cannot be done overnight—or even over the short term. But we can begin to do something about this violence today. We should not be afraid to work on a task that may not be done during our lifetime if it will free our children of a painful burden.

The beginning that we are taking with this policy is the start of work to eliminate violence against women (VAW). It is right to begin this journey now: Nearly 2 in 3 women between the age of 15 and 49 have experienced violence.

As indicated, we take this course because of our children. As a society that prides itself on its family kinship being tightly knitted, the health and well-being of our families is important to us. We also follow this course because of our Constitutional and international commitments to protecting the human rights and dignity of our citizens. It is right to protect women first because they are the main victims of violence.

The path laid out in this policy is not a burdensome one. It is straightforward. But it is uphill and it will require conscious effort for us to reach the top. And no one stakeholder can implement the policy alone. Eliminating VAW will take partnerships. These partnerships have started with the sharing that has created this policy. But much more will be needed in the years to come.

Let us move on, now, together to implement this policy.



Hon. Johnson Koli, MP

Minister for Women, Youth, and Children Affairs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Eliminating Violence Against Women (EVAW) policy has been developed to help the nation respond to a serious and widespread problem—violence against women. We must do something to solve this problem because this problem is serious and because of the mandates for peace and equality in our nation's Constitution, and in several of the international agreements that have been ratified by our Parliament.

Violence against women (VAW) is any form of violence against women that does, or is likely to, result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering, including threats of violence and arbitrary deprivation of liberty. These forms include a number of specific acts of violence that are indicated in the policy.

The basic assumption behind this EVAW policy is that Solomon Islands government will exercise leadership to end all forms of violence against women, and it will support advocacy in this regard at the local, provincial national, regional and international levels. It will take positive measures to address the inequalities that cause and perpetuate VAW, strengthen VAW prevention efforts, address the triggers of VAW, and improve awareness of women's right and the equality of all citizens.

This policy has four guiding principles and values: Zero tolerance of violence; recognition of women's rights; the shared responsibility for eliminating VAW; and achieving gender equality.

These four principles and values guide our response to seven key strategic areas: Developing national commitments to eliminate VAW; strengthening legal frameworks, law enforcement and justice systems; eliminating and preventing VAW through public awareness and advocacy; improving protective, social and support services; treating perpetrators; working with men to end VAW; and coordinating this policy with related policies and coordinating VAW-elimination services with each other and with this policy.

This policy will be implemented alongside and as a subsidiary policy to the Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy. It will be implemented via a national EVAW Task Force comprised of representatives of VAW support agencies (police, health & medical services, education, VAW refugees and treatment agencies, etc.).

The Task Force will report to the National Steering Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Development. The Task Force will be guided by a three-year multisectoral National Action Plan (NAP).

Government will provide sufficient resources for the implementation of this policy. Government will also provide sufficient resources for the appointment of an EVAW coordinator in MWYCA to implement the Policy and its NAP.

This policy and the NAP will be reviewed after two full years, and will be reviewed again after a further three years, with subsequent reviews being undertaken every three years.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *The goal of this policy is to eliminate violence against women.*

1.2 *The basis for this policy.*

This policy links to a number of national policies and international commitments.¹ This policy complements the national Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy (GEWD), other relevant government policies, Solomon Islands' Constitution and international agreements. It also reflects earlier and current activities to eliminate violence against women. In turn, this policy will benefit all of the stakeholders in the elimination of violence against women by helping them work together more effectively and with less duplication.

1.3 *What is violence against women?*

Violence against women² (VAW) is a technical term used to collectively refer to violent acts that are primarily or exclusively committed against women. Violence against women is a form of Gender Based Violence³ (GBV). Most GBV is upon women. VAW is any form of violence against women that does, or is likely to, result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering, including threats of violence and arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (UN Declaration on Violence Against Women 1993). It includes, but is not limited to:

- Domestic violence
- Early forced marriage
- Commercial sexual exploitation of women, including forced prostitution
- Sexual violence, including:
 - * intimate partner violence
 - * rape
 - * incest
 - * child sexual abuse
 - * knowing transmission of STIs and HIV
- Sexual harassment
- Other forms of violence:
 - * violence against women during/after armed conflict or emergency
 - * trafficking of women,
 - * acts of violence intended to reinforce gender hierarchies and/or perpetuate gender inequalities (such as harmful “traditional” practices),
 - * homophobic violence and other hate crimes

¹ International commitments include the global and regional agreements, conventions, etc., that have been endorsed or ratified by the Solomon Islands government.

² Whenever the term women is used in this policy it refers to women of all ages—from girl children to adult women.

³ Gender-based violence (GBV) results in physical, sexual and psychological harm to both men and women and includes any form of violence or abuse that targets men or women on the basis of their sex. Unequal power relations between men and women significantly contribute to gender violence. In fact, gender-based violence is intended to maintain gender inequalities and/or reinforce traditional gender roles for both men and women.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 ***The policy statement for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) in Solomon Islands***

is: The Solomon Islands government will exercise leadership to end all forms of violence against women and support advocacy in this regard at the local, provincial, national, regional and international levels, by all sectors and all political and community leaders, as well as the media and civil society.

The Solomon Islands government will take positive measures to:

- address the social, political, legal and economic inequalities that cause and perpetuate violence against women
- address the situations and risk factors that can trigger violence against women
- strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social and cultural norms, and
- uphold and raise awareness of women's rights and the responsibility of Solomon Islands' citizens to respect the rights of others.

3. RATIONALE

As the forward and preface to this policy indicate, there are many large and small reasons for the development and contents of this policy. While much violence may have its origins in the household with violence against women, we cannot overlook that some of the violence has origins outside of the household. Some of the data that will help us to understand those situations, and that guides us in the design of solutions are presented here:

- Violence against women is much too common in Solomon Islands. Nearly 2 in 3 women between the age of 15 and 49 have experienced violence.⁴
- Women in Solomon Islands experience severe forms of physical partner violence (domestic violence) such as punching, kicking or having a weapon used against them.⁵
- During the period of ethnic tension, rape (and the threat of rape) was used as a tactic against women by combatants.⁶
- Domestic violence and sexual violence against women heightened in areas most affected by the ethnic tension.⁷
- Status of women is generally low and they face inequalities and hardship in many aspects of life.⁸ In some cases the status of women has declined and women are becoming the subject of denial and suppression, for example women as landowners or women with disability.⁹

4 MWYCA & NSO (National Statistics Office), *Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study*, SPC, Noumea, 2009. Chapter 5: Prevalence of Intimate partner violence, p61.

5 Ibid.

6 AusAID, Office of Development Effectiveness, *Violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor – Solomon Islands Country Supplement*, p3; MWYCA & NSO, *op cit.*, p84; Amnesty International, *Solomon Islands: Women Confronting Violence*, November 2004, p13.

7 MWYCA & NSO, *op cit.*, p 28 and pp 83-84; *Addressing violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: Solomon Islands Country Supplement*, p4.

8 MWYCA & NSO, *op cit.*, p 28.

9 Ibid., p 29.

- The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended in 2002 that Solomon Islands adopt and implement legislation and administrative measures to protect members of the family, particularly women and children, from domestic violence because of the inadequate representation of women at all levels of decision making and the high incidence of domestic violence against women and children.¹⁰
- VAW increases maternal mortality (deaths during childbirth); it is very high: 130 per 100 000 births.¹¹ Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are more likely to report bad health, difficulties with daily activities, recent pain, and dizziness.¹² Women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner report higher levels of emotional distress and are more likely to have thoughts of suicide.¹³
- Women need to be able to live in peace and dignity to carry out their many roles, traditional and modern. The Family Health & Safety Survey tells us that violence affects the capacity of women to improve their lives and situation, and their family through, for example, education or employment.
- Most religions' and Kastom/Custom values say that women should be respected, and be able to live life of peace and dignity.¹⁴
- Solomon Islands has agreed to implement the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international agreements and conventions for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) that require action to stop violence against women.
- Solomon Islands has made a commitment to addressing the status of women at regional and global levels to address violence against women, for example, the regional agreement on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Pacific Plan, which need to be 'actioned'.

4. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The Solomon Islands policy to eliminate violence against women is based on the following principles:

4.1 *Zero tolerance of violence*

Solomon Islands does not tolerate violence against women of any form in any context or in any circumstance.

4.2 *Recognition of women's rights*

Solomon Islands, as a State Party to CEDAW, CRC and other international agreements, is committed to fulfilling its obligations under them. The Solomon Islands' Constitution opens with a pledge of equality and protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual without discrimination based on sex (Chapter 2s3 and 2s15), protects its citizens from inhumane treatment (Chapter 2s7), and protects against the deprivation of property (Chapter 2s8).

10 UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 29th session, 11-29 November 2002, Concluding observations, Recommendation 23, p4.

11 MWYCA & NSO, op cit., pp 115-121.

12 Ibid., pp 107 & 109.

13 Ibid, pp105, 112 & 113.

14 Ibid., pp162-163 and Foreword by Dr Jimmy Rogers, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, p v.

4.3 *Sharing responsibility for elimination of violence against women*

The cultural context of Solomon Islands, the multifaceted nature of violence against women and the challenges to effectively managing risks to women, require the active support and cooperation of national, provincial and local government leaders, churches, National and Provincial Councils of Women, other women's, men's and youth organisations and development partners.

4.4 *Achieving gender equality*

Achieving gender equality between Solomon Islands women and men requires that the rights of women to safety and to live a life free of violence be recognised. The Solomon Islands government has a duty to provide equity, gender mainstreaming and specific measures for the advancement of women, especially in key development areas such as employment, education and women's political leadership.

5. KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

Our key strategies reflect the cross-cutting efforts that are needed to ensure the prevention of VAW (including reducing the vulnerabilities of potential victims), the protection of victims of VAW and the prosecution of perpetrators of VAW in ways that respect all people's human rights. This policy also recognises the need for significant social, political and economic empowerment of women in order to provide them with the opportunities and financial stability to protect themselves against, evade and recover from violence.

5.1 *Develop National Commitments to Eliminate Violence Against Women*

This policy recognises that effective responses to violence against women require well-developed mechanisms at high levels for collaboration and coordination between Government, donors, NGOs and civil society actors. It will use policy implementation mechanisms to create a multisectoral response.

5.2 *Strengthen Legal Frameworks, Law Enforcement and the Justice System*

This policy recognises that deterring violence against women will require changes to laws and to the enforcement of laws so that women are treated with respect and dignity and their right to live free from violence is understood and enforced. Legislation on violence against women must prevent violence against women, ensure investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, and provide protection and support for complainants/survivors of violence. The laws related to EVAW include criminal law, protective law, marriage and divorce (family) law—and the laws of kastom—as well as those laws that might protect women from violence in employment and educational institutions and laws regarding the treatment of perpetrators. Criminal law must prohibit, punish and deter violence against women. Protective laws must help to prevent ongoing violence. Marriage and divorce (family) laws are important because they assist women who have to leave their marriage—or other intimate relationship—because of violence. Laws can also prohibit and penalize violence in the workplace, in educational institutions and other institutions. Action in this area will include a review of existing laws and, in some areas, the introduction of new laws to address violence against women.

Laws must also be consistently and fairly enforced. Information and education about changes to law must also be widely available. Action in this area will include the provision of accredited training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies (including agencies that enforce laws in the workplace, etc.) in understanding gender-based inequalities of power, changes to the law and its methods of enforcement and the sensitivity required to appropriately support women to deal with acts of violence against them.

This policy recognises that changes are necessary to the justice system. Action in this area will include the provision of accredited training and technical assistance to judges and magistrates in understanding the gender-based inequalities of power and of changes to the law, and the sensitivity required to make judgements in violence against women cases. Engaging and including the rest of the legal profession and legal practitioners in accredited training and technical assistance is important for the practice of law in this area and for the implementation of new legal regimes.

5.3 Eliminate and Prevent VAW through Public Awareness and Advocacy

This policy recognises that effective interventions must be based on well thought out strategies, activities and key ongoing processes designed to prevent and eliminate violence (including triggers to violence), advance gender equality and promote women's development. Existing activities must be strengthened and improved. Activities must include advocacy and awareness-raising, through public forums, campaigns, networking, coalition building, education and training, and when necessary, political action. Resources for these activities must be distributed equitably.

5.4 Strengthen and improve protective, social and support Services

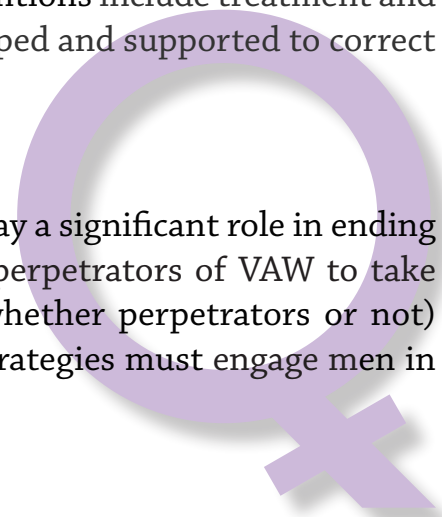
This policy recognises that women experiencing violence in their homes and/or communities have few safe and secure shelters and destinations, and limited opportunities for accessible psychological counseling. In this context this policy requires the strengthening of existing health and other social services and facilities, and development of further facilities and targeted support services, particularly in the provinces.

5.5 Rehabilitate and treat perpetrators

This policy recognizes that effective and appropriate interventions are needed that place victim safety at the centre of responses and focus on perpetrator's (especially men's) responsibility for ending violence against women. Such interventions include treatment and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators; these must be developed and supported to correct their behavior and restore social functioning.

5.6 Work with men to end violence against women

This policy recognizes that men, in partnership with women, play a significant role in ending violence against women. Strategies and programs that help perpetrators of VAW to take responsibility for their behaviour will be developed. Men (whether perpetrators or not) must be approached as partners in solving the problem; our strategies must engage men in eliminating VAW.



5.7 Coordinate Policy and Services

This policy aligns with Solomon Islands' GEWD Policy, and other relevant government policies and plans. This policy also recognises the importance of planning, coordination, cooperation, information exchange and networking among the government agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) involved in the implementation of this policy.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Such networking activities are essential in order to realise our policy goals and strategies as well as to achieve efficient and optimal use of scarce resources. These activities need to be organised for stakeholders to maximise their participation in these vital activities.

6.1 Mechanisms

6.1.1 This policy is subsidiary to the national policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development (GEWD). The implementation mechanisms outlined below reflect this link.

6.1.2 The Solomon Islands government commits to a whole-of-government response that is developed with stakeholders for ending violence against women. The policy will be operationalised through a rolling, three year, National Action Plan (NAP) that provides a detailed framework of strategies. The NAP will be updated annually. The NAP will include guidance for the evaluation of this policy.

6.1.3 The National Task Force (NTF) for this policy shall be responsible to the National Steering Committee (NSC) on GEWD in the Ministry of Women, Youth and Cultural Affairs (MWYCA). The Permanent Secretary (PS) of MWYCA will Chair the NTF. The NTF will promote a multisectoral response for the elimination of violence against women, and will have overall responsibility for coordinating policy implementation, participatory monitoring, evaluation, and reviews. The NTF will also oversee the implementation of the NAP, and serve as an advisory committee for EVAW to the NSC.

6.1.4 Government will provide sufficient resources for the implementation of this policy. MWYCA will advise government so that sufficient resources are allocated to all involved Ministries to ensure a whole-of-government response to EVAW. Government will also provide sufficient resources for the appointment of an EVAW coordinator in MWYCA to implement the Policy and its NAP.

6.1.5 MWYCA, in partnership with stakeholders, will work to build capacity within relevant CSOs that help them to eliminate violence against women in all Solomon Islands communities.

6.2 Monitoring

The NAP is designed to present a rolling three-year plan of activities; this time period coincides with Ministries' corporate plans. In parallel with those plans, the NAP includes monitoring and evaluation processes, but these will use participatory processes to help stakeholders understand and commit to getting the work done. The NTF will monitor the implementation of the NAP, while the NSC will monitor the implementation of this

policy. The NAP will be monitored and updated annually as Ministries' corporate plans are updated.

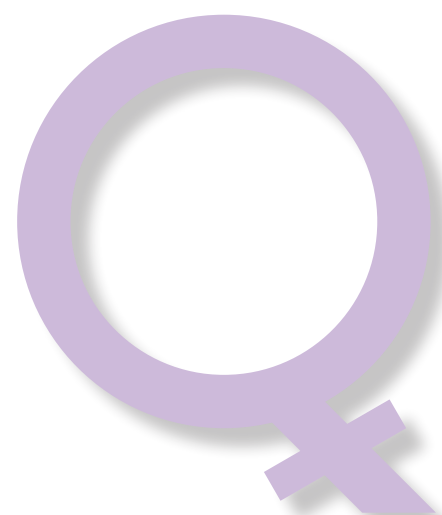
6.3 Reporting

The NTF will compile reports related to violence against women from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Vois Blong Mere Solomons (VBMS), the Family Support Centre, the Christian Care Centre and other relevant agencies and submit a composite report to the NSC. The NSC will endorse the report to Cabinet as submitted, or with changes the NSC feels are needed. This annual report will focus on the key strategic areas of this policy, and highlight progress, achievements, capacity building needs and other impacts of this policy on the people of Solomon Islands.

6.4 Review & Evaluation

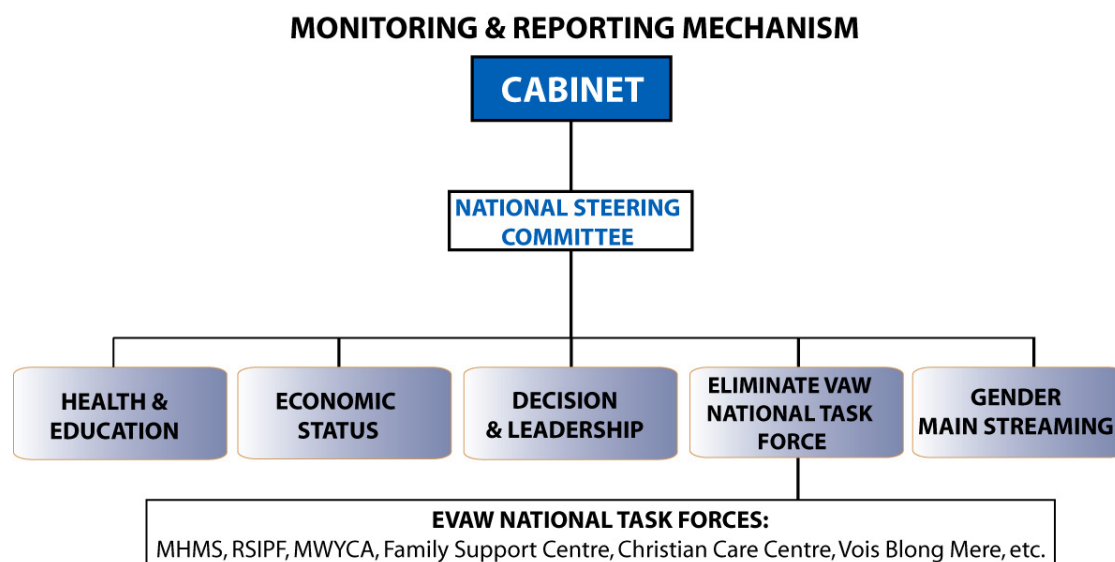
This policy and the NAP will be formally reviewed after two years via the NTF and NSC, under the auspices of MWYCA. Subsequent reviews will occur at three year intervals. Reviews will assess all reports to identify the gaps in activities, where outcomes are not being met, etc. These reviews guide the updating of the NAP and will guide the NTF in evaluating the effectiveness of the NAP and will guide government in evaluating the effectiveness of this policy.

Evaluation of the NAP will be undertaken by the NTF within the framework of this policy and the GEWD policy. Evaluations will also assess any social changes that need other support if they are to occur.



National Task Force On The Elimination Of Violence Against Women

As stated in the Policy, there will be a Task Force for EVAW reporting to the National Steering Committee in the MWYCA and responsible for the coordinating and monitoring of the EVAW NAP.



Membership

The NTF will be chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Women (MWYCA) and will consist of the following representation:

- (a) Solomon Islands government agencies involved in EVAW
- (b) Civil Society Organisations¹⁵ (including churches) involved in EVAW
- (c) Two Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) delegates: One a print and one a broadcast representative
- (d) One representative of the donor partners¹⁶ working in the Solomon Islands.

Meetings

The NTF will meet every two months to monitor and consider progress on implementation of the policy from members and report quarterly to the NSC.

Secretariat

The NTF will be supported by the Research, Policy, Planning and Information Division of MWYCA and will have a budget line to cater for meeting expenses and administrative costs.

Liaison

- Information sharing and networking with all key partners, stakeholders and

¹⁵ CSOs. Sometimes called NGOs.

¹⁶ Also called ODA (Official Development Assistance) agencies. The donor partner representative to the EVAW NTF will be the Coordinating Development Partner (CDP) that is a member of the GEWD NSC, or another partner appointed by the GEWD NSC because of that partner's interest in EVAW.

parties-at-interest.¹⁷

- Linking EVAW NTF to other relevant networks, bodies, or processes.
- Linking EVAW NTF with the GEWD NSC.

SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL POLICY TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP) JANUARY 2010-2013

Introduction

This plan is the first tool for implementing the national policy for eliminating violence against women (EVAW). That policy was developed to complement the national policy for gender equality and women's development (GEWD). This plan is designed for a three year time frame. The EVAW NAP will be updated annually by incorporating changes in the corporate plans of involved Ministries, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and others. The EVAW policy and this NAP will be reviewed after two years, but subsequent reviews should occur on a three-yearly basis. Gaps identified in such reviews will help stakeholders to update their corporate plans, and through those updates, help to keep the EVAW policy and its NAP relevant.

The goal of Solomon Islands' national EVAW policy is to eliminate violence against women and girls in all its forms.

National Action Plan Objectives

The objective of this plan is a strategic outline of activities that all Solomon Islanders can contribute to in order for the nation to achieve the policy goal.

Key Strategic Areas

The national policy for eliminating violence against women has seven key strategic areas:

1. Develop national commitments to eliminate VAW
2. Strengthen legal frameworks, law enforcement and the justice system
3. Eliminate and prevent VAW through public awareness and advocacy
4. Strengthen & improve protective, social and support services
5. Rehabilitate and treat perpetrators
6. Work with men to end VAW
7. Coordinate policy and services

National Action Plan Outcomes and Activities

Key Strategic Area 1: Develop national commitments to eliminate VAW

OUTCOME 1

Mechanisms of collaboration and cooperation established between all stakeholders and CSOs for effective commitment and response to VAW whether those commitment and responses are sector-specific, multi-sectoral, or cross-sectoral.

ACTIONS 1

1.1 Plan, organize and establish a mechanism for high-level collaboration and cooperation

¹⁷ This is not the same as 'interested parties'—it encompasses all who might be interested in or affected by the policy.

between governments, donors and CSOs with regard to service delivery to women victimized by violence. (The GEWD NSC is a possible mechanism to use for this purpose as it reports to the Cabinet, which in turn reports to Parliament).

- 1.2 Support ongoing process of reforming national legislation to incorporate EVAW-related national, regional and international commitments such as the CEDAW.
- 1.3 Conduct a nation-wide advocacy campaign, targeting key decision-makers, including parliamentarians, high-level government officials, media, and social and religious leaders at national, provincial and local levels to secure national support and commitment to the issues of VAW.
- 1.4 Develop appropriate mechanisms at all levels for effective implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the EVAW policy mechanisms.
- 1.5 MWYCA to advise government on allocation of sufficient resources to key implementing Ministries (e.g., Health and Medical Services, Education and Human Resource Development, Finance and Treasury, Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Justice and Legal Affairs, Police-National Security-Correctional Services, Home Affairs and Provincial Government) to ensure a whole-of-government response to EVAW.
- 1.6 Build capacity of focal points in the implementing mechanisms.

Performance Outputs 1

- Mechanisms, linked to the GEWD policy's NSC, in place for high level collaboration and cooperation between governments, donors, CSOs
- National legislation reformed to incorporate national, regional and international commitments
- A nation-wide advocacy plan (that secures national commitment, support and response) approved and initiated
- Mechanisms in place for effective and participatory implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the EVAW policy
- Ministries allocated sufficient resources to implement EVAW and NAP
- Increased capacity within the EVAW mechanism to implement EVAW policy and its NAP; EVAW policy and NAP reviewed and updated as needed

Key Strategic Area 2: *Strengthen legal frameworks, law enforcement and the justice system*

OUTCOME 2

A justice system that prohibits VAW and works towards the elimination of VAW.

ACTIONS 2

- 2.1 Reform the criminal law, protective law and marriage and divorce (family) law in accordance with the needs of women experiencing violence, in ways that reflect and update kastom law while fulfilling Constitutional mandates and international commitments of Solomon Islands.
- 2.2 Provide information and education to communities about changes to the law.
- 2.3 Provide training and education for police, prosecutors, magistrates, and judges about new laws and how they can be implemented to eliminate violence against

women.

2.4 Enforce laws that prohibit violence against women.

Performance Outputs 2

- Sentencing guidelines developed and used by judiciary
- Average sentence for persons convicted of VAW crimes is at or above the middle of the range of potential sentences
- New laws in place to prohibit and protect women from violence
- Increased prosecution and rates of conviction of cases involving violence against women

Key Strategic Area 3: ***Eliminate and prevent VAW through public awareness and advocacy***

OUTCOME 3

Attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate and support violence against women are eradicated.

ACTIONS 3

- 3.1 Support social marketing research and data collection that will improve the effectiveness of EVAW advocacy and awareness activities.
- 3.2 Prepare and disseminate EVAW information in all provinces and Honiara, and at community level, about what actions might be taken to reduce or eliminate VAW. This would include (among other things):
 - a. Programs in schools (through IEC¹⁸ material development and curriculum development) for young people to develop their attitudes towards culture and promote non-violent behavior and healthy relationships.
 - b. Parenting programs and other programs outside of schools that promote children's safety, development and well being.
 - c. Design and implement broadcast and print media programs that promote women's human rights, the consequences of VAW, and strategies for intervening to prevent or stop VAW.

Performance Outputs 3

- An advocacy and awareness-raising action plan developed within the first year and updated annually
- Elements of that plan, such as provincial workshops on the findings of the *Health and Family Study*, and other EVAW issues are completed and evaluated
- Increased number of men and women informed on ways to eliminate VAW
- IEC materials designed and used in schools throughout the country
- Increased community/group awareness about the consequences of VAW and how to intervene to prevent or stop VAW
- Increased number of parents informed on the impact of VAW on children's development
- Increased numbers of young people informed on the consequences of VAW in relation to culture and violent behavior and unhealthy relationships

18 "IEC" stands for 'information, education and communication'; there are international principles to guide the development of IEC materials.

Key Strategic Area 4: *Strengthen and improve protective, social and support services*

OUTCOME 4

Improved access to protective, health, and multi-sectoral support services for women and their families who experience violence.

ACTIONS 4

- 4.1 Strengthen existing services, such as those of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the RSIPE, the Social Welfare Dept, the Family Support Centre and the Christian Care Centre.
- 4.2 Increase the quantity and quality of existing VAW services, and develop new services and faith-based services for families in crisis.
- 4.3 Identify community-based initiatives that help women and their families who experience violence and support those communities to develop their capabilities in eliminating VAW.
- 4.4 Strengthen current social services (health and other services) to identify needs, responses and implementers.
- 4.5 Strengthen multi sectoral support services and referral networks.

Performance Outputs 4

- Capacity of existing services expands in quantity and quality
- Community- and faith-based initiatives identified and strengthened
- Social service agencies (e.g., RSIPE, MHMS—Social Welfare, Health [inc. Community Mental Health]) reviewed and their abilities to respond to VAW strengthened
- Increased use of support services by women and families
- Data recording systems established in support services
- Increased effectiveness of multi-sectoral support services and referral networks

Key Strategic Area 5: *Rehabilitate and treat perpetrators*

OUTCOME 5

Interventions to change the behaviour of perpetrators developed and supported.

ACTIONS 5

- 1.1 Develop effective behavior change and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators and offenders that:
 - * hold them responsible for their use of violence;
 - * are tailored to respond to the nature of their offending
 - * are structured on a gendered analysis of violence against women; and
 - * operate as a recognised part of a broader, integrated response to violence against women.
- 1.2 Identify strategies to support viable alternatives for community based interventions including traditional practices that reduce VAW.
- 1.3 Identify and train men as perpetrator rehabilitation and treatment workers.

- 1.4 Improve perpetrator access to voluntary counselling and group programs, some of which run in parallel with programs that work closely with, and support, the abused partners
- 1.5 Reform legislation to make specific provision for referral to perpetrator programs, either as part of the protection order process or, in the criminal context, as a condition of sentencing or bail.
- 1.6 Conduct education campaigns about men's responsibility to protect women and stop violence in home, public and workplace.
- 1.7 Develop systems to collect information on effectiveness of programs to evaluate and provide evidence on whether these programs reduce violence against women.

Performance Outputs 5

- Reduction in repeat¹⁹ VAW offending
- Increased number of perpetrators taking responsibility for their violent behaviour and sustaining behaviour change
- Information and evaluation systems established and used by stakeholders and others
- Increased availability of and access to interventions for perpetrators and others
- Increased numbers of men working in rehabilitation and treatment programs for perpetrators
- Increased number of trained specialist counsellors
- Legislation reformed to provide for referral to perpetrator programs

Key Strategic Area 6: *Work with men to end violence against women*

OUTCOME 6

Men are partners with women to end men's violence against women

ACTIONS 6:

- 6.1 Establish and support partnerships between men's and women's groups that engage men as vital contributors to collective action to change perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of men and as champions in ending VAW.
- 6.2 Target training for men on gender equality, masculinity, the role of men in society and men's responsibility to eliminate VAW through acting as role models for other men in the treatment of women.
- 6.3 Support men to continue to take initiative in community and civic education activities such as The White Ribbon Campaign.

Performance Outputs 6

- Increased partnerships between men and women's groups aimed at ending VAW
- Training opportunities for men on issues of VAW and gender equality are available and accessible to provincial-, community-, and urban-based men's groups (including faith-based groups)
- Male advocates attend mixed and male-only national, regional and international events (e.g., 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre training) and develop activities aimed at men to examine their assumptions about

¹⁹ Including recidivist offending.

- gender roles and masculinity and as advocates for non-violent behaviour
- Men comprise at least 30% (and not more than 50%) of EVAW NTF

Key Strategic Area 7: *Coordinate Policy and Services*

OUTCOME 7

EVAW policy and services are coordinated with each other. The EVAW policy is aligned with the GEWD and other relevant government policies and plans.

ACTIONS 7

- 7.1 Establish an EVAW National Task Force (NTF), chaired by the PS/MWYCA, to coordinate the implementation of EVAW policy and oversee and monitor the implementation of this NAP. The NTF will report to the NSC for the GEWD policy and serve as an advisory committee on violence against women to that NSC.
- 7.2 Develop a rolling three year strategic framework of activities.
- 7.3 Establish and implement a multi-sectoral referral system for VAW incidences and cases.
- 7.4 Establish an EVAW Desk in MWYCA to assist with coordination and implementation of the policy and this NAP.
- 7.5 Establish gender desks in key government Ministries that will work together and also work with other development partners in eliminating violence against women.
- 7.6 Support networking amongst and between community, provincial and urban EVAW activities.
- 7.7 Establish procedures, in conjunction with the GEWD information base, for future research, systematic data collection, data analysis, use of data and data sharing.
- 7.8 Develop frameworks for participatory monitoring, evaluation and review of this NAP.

Performance Outputs 7

- The EVAW National Task Force established and providing timely advice to the NSC
- A rolling three year strategic framework of activities approved by the EVAW NTF
- An effective multi-sectoral referral system established
- An EVAW Desk established in MWYCA
- Gender Desks established in key Ministries²⁰
- Procedures for research and for the use of NSO database established and linked to GEWD database
- Local and provincial networking activities increase in quantity and location
- NTF annual and review reports accepted by the GEWD policy's NSC

²⁰ See Action 1.5 of this NAP.

Peaceful families, peaceful communities, peaceful aelens, peaceful nation

No Ken Raa Helpem Mere - No Kilim

Violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable

I have a dream

Break the silence

Break the cycle

Man - plis
loven mere
no breakim family
no breakim bones,

No hitim Mere
No Kilim Mere

Men against Violence Against Women

Activists against VAW

Don't tolerate VAW

VAW is a crime

Love shouldn't hurt

Domestic violence ruins lives

Equality - not discrimination

Real men dont hit women

Solomon Aelans against gender violence

Help women

Speak out!

escape violence

Helping women is about

helping yourself, and everyone

Mummy, talem aot sore

and body soa blo ia, no haidim

Zero tolerance of violence against women

Let us move forward without violence

Eliminating violence cannot be done

overnight but we can begin today

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE

Stopem vaelens against women

Real men do not abuse
women and children

No moa vaelens

We need rainbows not rambos

OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE MOMENT WE KEEP SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER
WE MUST UNITE. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CANNOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM, IN ANY CONTEXT, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE





The Solomon Islands Government has chosen to begin to address violence against women so that our children will experience less of it in order that our grandchildren might see none of it