

INAUGURAL



PACIFIC
FEMINIST
FORUM 2016

Mapping journeys, Building movements

Program Booklet

28 – 30 November 2016
University of the South Pacific,
Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji

The Pacific Feminist Forum (PFF) 2016 Steering Group

The PFF working group committee is made up of diverse feminist groups and organisations with a common aspiration to convene a forum for celebrating Pacific feminism and strengthening regional networks for a stronger voice on issues that are important to us.

The steering group committee includes:

Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)
Diverse Voices for Action (DIVA) for Equality Fiji
Haus of Kameleon (HOK)
Bold Alliance
Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance (PYWLA)

The steering group would also like to acknowledge and extend our deepest thanks to our partners for their support and commitment towards making this forum a success.

The Pacific Feminist Forum partners include:

University of the South Pacific
We Rise 2 Coalition
International Women's Development Agency
FemLINK Pacific: Media Initiatives for Women
UN Women
Westpac Markets
Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development
Australian High Commission
UNDP European Union funded project "Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Fiji Initiative" (SCEFI)
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)





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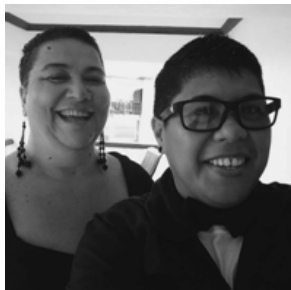
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The background features a light green and white abstract pattern of wavy, overlapping lines. A faint, light-colored map of the Pacific region is visible in the background, showing the outlines of continents and islands. The text is centered in the upper portion of the page.

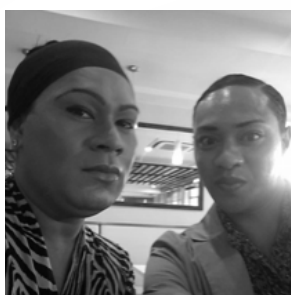
Message from Pacific Feminist Forum Host

Pacific Feminist Forum Steering Group



Diverse Voices and Action for Equality Fiji (DIVA)

Noelene Nabulivou & Shirley Tagi
-message



Haus of Khameleon (HOK)

Sulique Waqa and Miki Wali

Haus of Khameleon (HK) is a movement that is led by young transgender women who are lobbying, campaigning, organizing, researching, training and advocating for transgender equality in Fiji and the Pacific. Haus of Khameleon's work is framed around feminism, using human rights based and evidence based approaches to address trans issues that is not only limited to gender-based violence, access to trans friendly services and resources, SRHR, peace & security, legal gender recognition, housing, employment, ecological justice and good governance. One of HK's core work is documenting and reporting trans specific violence and for the first time, the HK will be implementing Fiji's first ever research on the sexual and gender based violence experienced by trans and non-gender conforming people. HK is led by a team of young trans feminists who continue to push boundaries and reconstruct heteronormative binaries.



Bold Alliance Consultants

Bold Alliance is a fresh start-up entrepreneurship comprising of local women's rights activists and strong LGBTQ advocates Tavai Bale and Tamara Smith, who share between them, more than 28 years of expertise, passion and energy for creative development, to enhance the operations of any organisation that engages with them. BOLD specializes in:

- Project management, logistics and administration
- Marketing, advertising, public relations & promotions
- Event management

BOLD's business values, accompanied with their personal commitment to the advancement of women's socio/economic statuses, are well aligned with FWRM's Vision and a key factor to their appointment as Coordinators of the Inaugural Pacific Feminist Forum. Upon their successful bid in an application call-out, BOLD stated, "We're well aware of FWRM's contributions to Pacific Women's Movements and aim to infuse innovative strategies to organize and promote your two proposed events with a bigger hope of securing regional and international support for women living in the Pacific."

Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance (PYWLA)

From the Republic of Marshall Islands, [Yoshiko Yamaguchi-Capelle](#) brings into the PFF Working Group her rich experience in works around Pacific Youth participation at all levels of decision-making.

She is the first young Pacific Island woman to be appointed to the Pacific Women Advisory Board and is a member of the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance (PYWLA). In this picture, she, along with Fiji's [Noelene Nabulivou](#) make Pacific voices heard at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN Headquarters in New York in March this year. [Photo courtesy: Kuiniselani Toelupe]

The PYWLA is composed of regional and UN organizations working in the area of Young Women's Leadership. The PYWLA is a platform representing an established network of women leaders with a representative voice in the Pacific Region on issues affecting young women. It was established in 2011 as a recommendation of the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Strategy – which highlighted the need for a network of organizations to work together to advocate for young women's leadership in the Pacific region. The PYWLA bases its work around five key themes of this strategy:

- Safe: Violence Against Women, Women, Peace and Security, Women's role in Disaster Management
- Respected: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Respectful Relationships, Body Image/Self Esteem/Mental Health
- Included: Inclusion of minority disadvantaged groups of young women, e.g. rural women, women with disabilities, GLBTI etc., Young women in leadership and decision making
- Connected: The role of the media in social change, Women and the media, Movement building
- Skilled: Access to Education, Employment and Training.

About the Forum

About the Forum

In November 2016, women's rights defenders, feminists and women from multifarious backgrounds across the South Pacific will converge in Suva, Fiji for the inaugural Pacific Feminist Forum (PFF). The Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) along with its event partners and a Steering Group of Pacific Island representatives are organizing the PFF as a means of '*mapping journeys and building movements*' amongst feminists across the region.

The Pacific Feminist Forum is positioned to be an extremely important event for Pacific women being the first ever gathering of its kind in the region.

It aims to convene a diverse and amazingly influential network of Pacific feminists, with the intention of reflecting on key issues paramount to gender equality and women's rights, as well as collaborating to effect positive change for all Women and Girls within our respective regional communities. The PFF will be a platform of fostering Intergenerational Leadership within feminist movements at the national and regional level. It will also be a time of celebrating the tremendous gains that previous generations of Pacific Feminists have made (and are still making), so that the new wave of feminist activism is able to flourish.

A celebratory segment of the 'herstorical' event will be the commemoration of FWRM's 30th Birthday as a leader within the broader human rights community having provided feminist analysis to addressing all forms of discrimination conflict in Fiji for the past three decades.

Feminism within the Pacific has grown from strength to strength, with various feminist organisations accumulating a wealth of experience and knowledge to advance Gender Equality and Women's Rights across the Pacific region. Pacific Feminists have represented the region at various high-level meetings regionally and internationally and successfully influenced those spaces in terms of networking, strategizing and developing strong alliances with fellow activists worldwide.

However, it is important that Pacific feminists are provided with a collective space to strengthen and re-energize for transformative change. The challenge however is the geographical divide and socio economic realities of 22 developing island states. Pacific feminism faces a unique hardship of continuous engagement and solidified efforts as access to resources are scarce, with islands so distant, making physical solidarity difficult, but also an isolation of feminists separated by the world's largest ocean.

The Pacific feminist movement therefore is one going against the current, as advocates and activists forge through the vast Pacific territory to consolidate works and push a Pacific development agenda to the forefront of global progress plans.

The Inaugural PFF aims to bridge this divide in bringing women's rights defenders from across the region to Fiji for a three day forum enabling a more compact mobilization for various Pacific feminists, their organizations and their respective island homes.

Objectives

- Form new alliances and strengthen existing relationships amongst Pacific Feminists and Women Human Rights Defenders through networking and activities that promote solidarity;
- Identify effective methods for further development towards the progress of Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in the Pacific through a PFF Outcomes Document, which will be titled '*Pacific Feminists Charter for Change*'
- Provide a participatory and celebratory space for feminists in all their diversities, to renew commitments, advance human rights by recognizing, protecting and promoting issues concerning Social Justice in the Pacific

Participants

The forum will host around one hundred participants from across the Pacific region such as Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Kiribati, Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Australia and New Zealand.

Forum Design

Several thematic workshops intended for the PFF will encourage knowledge sharing, enhance the skill-set of participants and create an empowering environment to promote solidarity and renew our commitment to issues on social justice. This will in turn play an instrumental role in 'movement-building' as we seek to enable young feminists to tackle troubling issues in their respective Pacific Island countries such as economic injustice, erosion of democratic spaces and inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and so on.

Each day has an opening plenary that focuses on a particular theme. Additionally, each day will feature simultaneous sessions that are aligned to the theme.

The PFF will be a hive of activities and workshops designed to uplift, energize and inspire. It will transcend any and all barriers by allowing the participation of young women, women living with disabilities, women of diverse sexual orientation and older women activists in deliberations and hands-on decision-making where their concerns will be shared in a booming collective voice of Pacific women speaking for themselves and the women of their motherlands.

Alongside the Forum

Westpac Women's Market and Feminist Art Bazaar

Bringing women together to encourage entrepreneurial and financial empowerment.

Women entrepreneurs will be given the chance to sell their craft and other wares at the forum. In order to harness the creative talents of women artists and entrepreneurs, space will be allocated for women to sell their products/artwork/pottery etc. This will not only be a key focus or highlight of the forum but also generate income for these women vendors.

"Realising Women's Human Rights in the Pacific"

Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) through the picture exhibition will highlight its support to the region on addressing Violence Against Women (VAW) through development of legislation and implementation concluding observations from the treaty bodies related to VAW.

Brief on Key Note Speaker



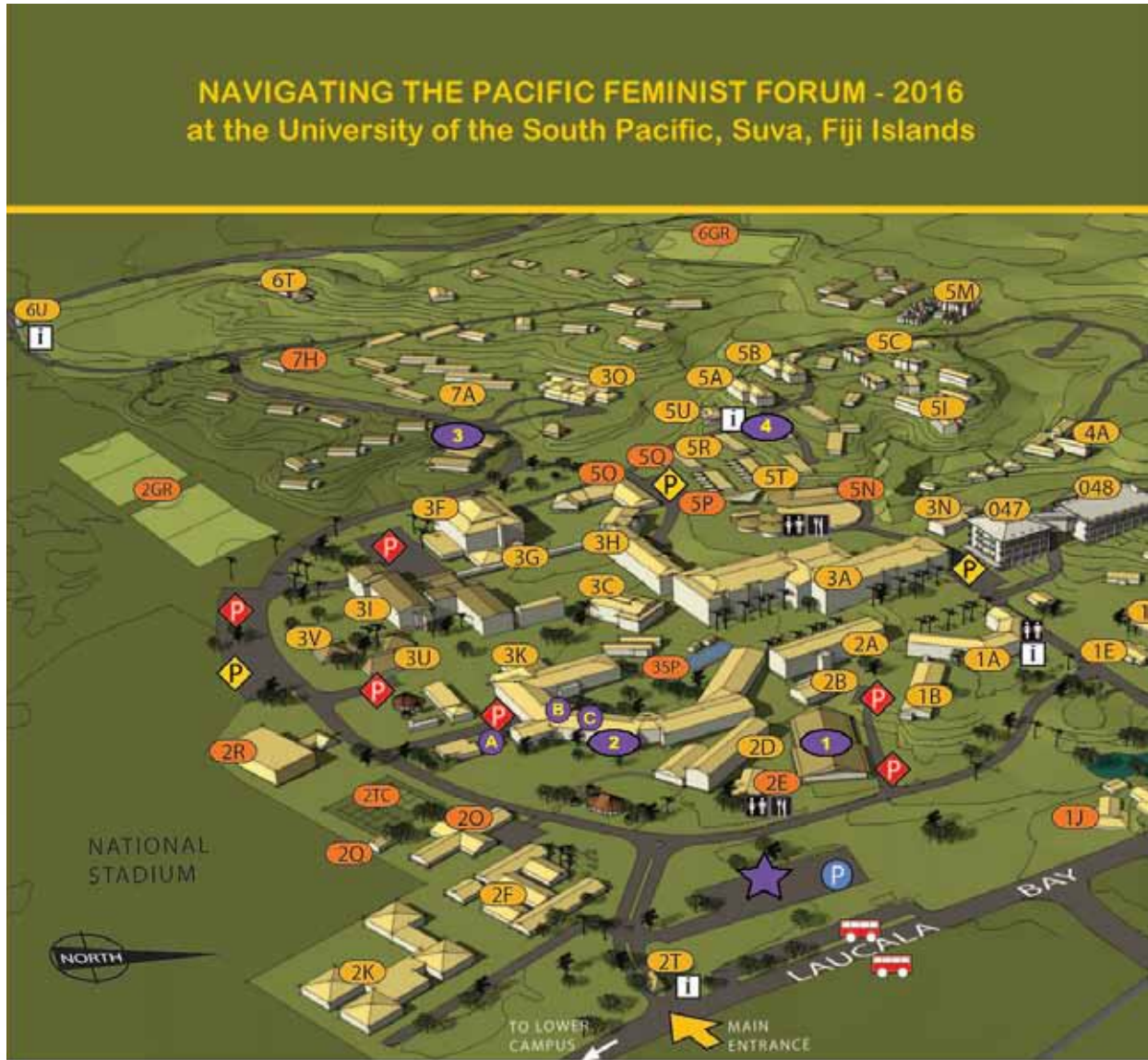
Claire Slatter taught Politics in the (then) Department of History/Politics at the University of the South Pacific (USP) for 17 years before moving with her family to Wellington for three years. On her return she joined the Fiji Institute of Technology to help set up and teach mandatory ethics units. When FIT and other national tertiary institutions combined to form the Fiji National University a year later, she was appointed Head of the School of Social Sciences, and oversaw the establishment of undergraduate programmes in history and geography. She returned to USP in February 2012, where she joined the School of Government, Politics and International Affairs, teaching both postgraduate courses in the Governance Programme and undergraduate courses in Politics and International Affairs.

Claire's research interests include global development policy debates, the politics of economic and trade liberalization in the Pacific region, the implications and impacts of sectoral 'reforms' in Pacific Island states, and the economic rights of Pacific women. Claire has been actively involved in NGO work nationally and internationally. She is a founding member of the Citizens' Constitutional Forum of Fiji, which was originally established to build consensus on a democratic constitutional settlement after the 1987 coups. She is also a founding member (and current Board Chair) of the South-based feminist network of scholars and activists, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

A stylized graphic of a tree with a dense canopy of green leaves and a brown trunk and branches, set against a white background. The tree is positioned on the left side of the page, with its branches extending towards the right. The leaves are represented by various shades of green, and the trunk and branches are in shades of brown. The overall style is modern and minimalist.

Program Schedule

Forum Venue & Facilities



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
|  | Staff Parking |  | Building 1: AusAid Lecture Theatre - open access. Media Centre also located here. |
|  | Visitor Temporary Parking |  | Main building for all Sessions Day 1, 2 and 3 - access only for PFF Participants |
|  | Student Parking |  | Multimedia Room - access only for PFF Participants |
|  | Buildings |  | Journeys Room - access only for PFF Participants |
|  | Facilities |  | Movements Room - access only for PFF Participants |
|  | Bus Stop |  | Oceania Arts Centre - access only for PFF Participants + invited guests on Day 3 |
|  | Information |  | Halls of Residence for Accommodation - access only for paying PFF Participants |
|  | Food Outlet |  | Women's Markets - open access 10am - 5pm only Day 1, 2 and 3 |
|  | Toilets | | |

Plenary Sessions

The daily plenary sessions are the one place where all the Forum participants come together in the same room.

We invite participants to think and frame questions and engage in debate and discussions with the diverse movements represented. Expanding beyond 'expert panels', these plenary sessions incorporate various ways of participating, to excite and inspire!

Opening Plenary: Pacific Feminism: Where we have been, Where are we going

Monday Nov 28

We open the Forum with an invitation to mutually celebrate our victories, acknowledge our wounds and challenges, and co-create the futures we aspire to. Situating ourselves in the current moment, we will examine the complex realities in which struggles for rights and justice are now taking place. We will build collective analysis of key issues and trends looking at where we have been and co create new visions for the future. The intergenerational plenary will provide a platform for the creation of new visions for a feminist future.

Moderator: Tara Chetty, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

Speakers:

Michelle Reddy, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Kathryn Relang, Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)

Joleen Mataele, Tonga Leitis Association

Akansha Kant, GIRL Activist

Plenary 2: Women Human Rights Defenders Day: Provoking and Proposing

Tuesday Nov 29

Celebrating Women Human Rights Defenders Day, the plenary made up of a myriad of speakers, intends to provide provocation. The session offers a space to go beyond our current framings towards a radical transformation of our own and collective thinking. We intend to discuss the 'uncomfortable and silent issues' of our movements and collectively learn from our experiences to shape our feminist futures.

Moderator: Noelene Nabulivou (Diverse Voices and Action for Equality Fiji)

Speakers:

Tamara Kruzang Mandengat (ACT Now, PNG)

Adi Finau Tabakaucoro (Soqosoqo Vakamarama)

Savina Nongebatu (People With Disabilities on Solomon Islands)

Mamta Chand (Fiji Women's Rights Movement)

Yoshiko Yamaguchi-Capelle (Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance)

Alisi Rabukawaqa (Urban Youth Network)

Maryann Lockington (Fiji Young Women's Forum)

Kiny Tinai (Patriots Community & Sports Club)

Amacy Antonio (Haus of Khameleon)

Launch of the 2016 Pacific Feminist Charter

The Pacific Feminist Charter is an outcome document, which will be drafted using feedback from participants during the plenaries, sessions and discussions. The Charter hopes to capture aspirations of the Pacific Feminist Forum. This is a public event where the Pacific Feminist Charter is shared and endorsed by the participants.

The launch is a fun and creative space that ends with a Pacific celebration. This session is facilitated by the PFF Steering Group. **Day 1 Monday 28 November**

Session Abstracts

Day 1 Monday 28 November

Feminism, Climate Change & the Pacific

Organiser: UN Women

Presenters: Cecilia Aipira, Noelene Nabulivou, Aleta Miller

A thought-provoking and awareness-raising panel discussion, beginning with the presentation of two recent Pacific-specific publications on the topic of gender equality and climate change and followed by panel critique and group discussion on how to take forward the recommendations of these documents.

The two pieces of work that are to be presented are:

- Research undertaken in 2015 and completed in 2016 by UN Women, entitled “Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: beyond commitment and towards more action. This study analyses differentiated impacts of climate change on gender across the Pacific and provides an overview of progress in the region. It looks at the role of women in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and evaluates regional capacity for gender responsive climate change action.
- A chapter from the book “Women and Girls Rising: progress and resistance around the World” on “Equality, Human Rights and Climate Justice: reflections and a call to action”; which calls for a feminist response to global problems, and in particular climate change.

The presentations will be followed by moderated CSO panel discussion based on the observations and conclusions drawn by the presenters along with practical feminist views from the field. The participation and leadership of women in climate change action has been identified globally as critical for fostering resilience in families, communities and nations. Substantial efforts are needed across the Pacific region to fully achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment in climate change and disaster risk reduction. Case studies will be used to show examples of best practice in some countries, but the content and themes of the presentation will be relevant to all developing nations and particularly focused on the specific risks of the Pacific region.

The purpose of this event is to provide evidence-based information on the gender impacts of climate change and disasters in the Pacific, to showcase diverse and innovative women, youth and community-led and cross-sectoral responses, and to identify how gender equality, women’s empowerment and human rights can be strengthened across legislation, policies, institutions, programmes and projects.

GIRLS Matter!!

Organiser: Fiji Women’s Rights Movement

Facilitators: Roselyn Sidal, Kavita Deo, Teresa Tei, Tamara Mua, Adi Ana, Elsie Pickering, Nancy Sahim and Barbara Zinck

GIRLS Matter shares innovative strategies in engaging with girl children in building a movement of young activists on gender equality. GIRLS Matter will showcase how songs, storytelling, yoga, interactive theatre games and digital storytelling are safe means to allow girls to talk about issues that matter to them as girl children. Issues faced include violence and bullying in the premise of their schools and homes. GIRLS Matter therefore is a unique advocacy methodology, which intends to share best practice with Pacific women human rights defenders in the room. The intention is motivate Pacific women human rights defenders to adopt similar strategy of working with girl children and their parents.

GIRLS Matter is girls- led with children aged 11 – 16 years. Given the varying socio cultural backgrounds and intersectional identities the issues faced by girl children are unique and to some extent similar. Girls are fighting the same battle- Gender Inequality from an early age.

Targeting girls at a very young age by creating safe spaces is crucial and worth investing for neighbouring Pacific Island Countries.

Feminist Resource & Funding: Making money count for feminist organizing in the Pacific

Organiser: Pacific Feminist Forum Steering Group

Speakers: Aleta Miller,

The session sets the platform for a constructive dialogue and discussion around resourcing feminist organizing. It aims to provide a space for discussions on current models of funding in the Pacific and its impact on feminist organizing. It will also provide some suggestions on funding models that can contribute to future collective feminist organizing.

Pacific Women Talanoa – What is “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development?”

Organiser: Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

Speakers: Suzanne Bent, Filomena Tuivanualevu, Linda Petersen and Yoshiko Yamaguchi

Facilitator: Tara Chetty

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) is a 10 year \$320 million program. Pacific Women supports 14 Pacific countries to meet the commitments made in the 2012 Pacific Island Forum Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration and will work with Pacific governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and multilateral, regional and United Nations agencies to achieve its intended outcomes:

- Women, and women's interests, are increasingly and effectively represented and visible through leadership at all levels of decision-making.
- Women have expanded opportunities to earn an income and accumulate economic assets.
- Violence against women is reduced and survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.
- Women in the Pacific will have a stronger sense of their own agency, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need.

Individual country plans have been developed - in close consultation with Pacific women and men, their organisations and national governments - to identify which activities will be funded in each country. Regional and multi- country activities are also funded to address common issues across the region and to complement and build on country activities.

Given the reach and scope of the program, and the level of committed funds, it is the biggest commitment to gender equality in the region and as such is of great interest and relevance to the participants at the Pacific Feminist Forum.

The session is designed as a feminist talanoa, drawing on Pacific and feminist methodologies to help encourage discussion. The four speakers come from four different areas of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program, and will help give the audience a well-rounded view of this key program for advancing gender equality in the region. They include an Australian civil servant working for gender equality, the head of the program's Support Unit, a young woman member of the program's Advisory Board, and a consultant helping write the program's strategic roadmap. The discussions about the Pacific Women roadmap will be particularly interesting, drawing together the three thematic outcome areas of women and leadership, ending violence against women and women's economic empowerment. Equally important will be the interaction with session audience, who will be encouraged by the facilitator to participate in the talanoa, asking questions and providing feedback on the different aspects of the program.

We Rise: Bold ideas, alliances and collective action in Coalition building

Organiser: The We Rise Coalition (FemLINK Pacific, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, International Women's Development Agency, Diverse Voices and Action)

Speakers: Noelene Nabulivou, Shirley Tagi, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Michelle Reddy and Donna McSkimming

The We Rise Coalition consists of four, independent feminist organisations in Fiji including: FemLINKPACIFIC, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality and IWDA. The goal of the We Rise Coalition is to develop, demonstrate and strengthen feminist coalitions and partnerships in order to grow and uphold inclusive governance, equality, diversity, justice and women's human rights. The We Rise Coalition combine our efforts, networks and actions to show that the 'whole is greater than the sum of our parts.'

This workshop aims to provide a space for interaction between Forum participants and the We Rise Coalition to:

- Introduce forum participants to the Coalition and identify the unique contributions that the Coalition could make to diverse women's rights in the Pacific; and
- Network and build alliances between participants about our respective approaches to building alliances and Coalitions for women's rights activism in the Pacific.

The session will involve a mix of panel discussion involve leaders from each Coalition partner and is an ideal opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies with a diversity of activists from across the Pacific and identify how the Coalition can be a catalyst for transformative change in the women's rights movement.

3 Things I wish I had known about Feminist Leadership

Organiser & Speaker: Rajeli Nicole, Oxfam Pacific

Since the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference, the Pacific has seen a steady rise of women's rights NGOs with each advocating for social transformative change. These organisations have been and continue to be led by an amazing cohort of dedicated women - pro-independence activists, feminists, women's rights activist, gender and development specialists, LGBTIQ activists, environmentalists, and many other fearless women - where at the heart of their work was to effect radical societal change. In the past 3 decades, we have seen women's rights organisations change from collective decision making structures to a hierarchical organisation. At the same time, while we used our resources to unpack, challenge, and fight global forces of oppression, we have rarely taken the time to think, articulate, and write about our leadership styles and our processes of decision-making.

This session is a beginning of a series of conversations in the women's movement. It is being organised as it acknowledges that we need to get better at our inter-generational conversations, inter-generational reflections and learning and more importantly that we need to create an environment for our radical social change project to remain visible and tangible.

Taking a self-reflexivity approach, the panelists will unpack the trials and tribulations of leading an organisation and in particular how they have each operationalized feminist leadership in everyday practice. Some of the questions of inquiry include:

- What is feminist leadership? And, what does it look like?
- What have I struggled during my leadership?
- Some practical tips on how to stay sane when in a leadership role
- How the women's movement can provide an enabling environment for feminist leadership to be practiced?

Charting a Feminist Way Forward

Organiser: PFF Steering Group and facilitated by Haus of Khameleon

The Pacific Feminist Charter is an outcome document, which will be drafted using feedback from participants during the plenaries, sessions and discussions. The Charter hopes to capture aspirations of the Pacific Feminist Forum. This session will contribute towards the Feminist Charter.

Celebrating Young Feminists – Tok Story

Organiser: Emerging Leaders' Forum Alumni (ELFA)

The ELFA led event would be a creative arts space that would:

- Showcasing young women who are part of the Pacific Feminist Forum
- Share the work of young women in ELFA as well other young women from the region that have continued to advocate for women's human rights in the different areas of work that they engage in.
- Young women in the region will tell their stories of their current journey through various creative approaches.

The activity will be a 2 to 3 hour evening session. At the event, ELFA will showcase around 20 young women leader profiles, whilst also allowing people attending to write/draw their messages of encouragement on the board. This becomes both an informative and creative area. The young women will be identified through the ELFA members and its networks as well as those who are attending the Pacific Feminist Forum.

Apart from this, the stage will be prepared to facilitate an 'open mike' poetry that will feature performers using music and the arts in getting messages across. We propose to use this as a way of advocating on the elimination of violence against women and girls. Music and the arts have a reach and a pull that can reach many and in the Pacific, this is inbuilt into our oral cultures of story-telling and knowledge sharing. We would like to provide a platform by young women for young women.

Day 2 Tuesday 29 November

Legal Gender Recognition: Making the Links: TransFeminist Reflections for the Pacific

Organiser: Haus of Khameleon

Speakers: Amacy Antonio

This event will explore the issue of violence against transwomen and their experience in accessing JUSTICE through the courts. The panel will reflect diverse perspectives and also unpack what the term "discrimination" generally refers. Human rights treaties themselves do not define the notion of discrimination. However, General Comment No. 18 by the UN Human Rights Committee refers to the text of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and concludes that discrimination is "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference" based on the forbidden grounds "and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms". The "effect" refers to indirect discrimination, in which a situation amounts to discrimination even without the authorities' intent to do so. We aim to deepen understandings of root causes and gendered consequences of conflict on women.

'Pacific Feminist Civil Society Led Research – Lessons Learnt from Building the Road as we walk it' – Feminist Learning Circle and Listening Room

Organiser: Diverse Voices and Action for Equality

Speakers: Shirley Tagi, Audrey Seru, Sesenieli Bui, Cash and Noelene Nabulivou

This workshop comes out of a stated concern of feminists and Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) to ensure that there are increases in opportunities for feminists and WHRDs in Pacific small island states and territories to tell our own stories, create our own research and analysis, to directly input into policy and development and human rights work, and to influence our societies and governments with our own knowledge, experiences and skills.

Feminist social movements in the Pacific must continue to expand our work, and this is aided by clear, ethical, useful and creatively implemented research, analysis and policy development by and for Pacific feminists and WHRDs.

DIVA for Equality is providing an example from a feminist LBT/M collective and network in Fiji, both on good practice and mistakes/challenges on the research journey, through the learning circle process.

The role of communications, activism and women's rights in the Pacific

Organiser: International Women's Development Agency and the Developmental Leadership Program with the Institute of Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

Speakers: Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Alice Pollard, Lily BeSoer and Shazia Usman

The Pacific's 'digital revolution' has expanded on the range of communication platforms available to advocates, activists and human rights defenders throughout the region. Increasing popularity of social media has proved a valuable platform for Pacific feminists to engage in digital activism, providing an alternative to mainstream media for raising awareness and promoting dialogue on key human rights issues. However, engagement in this space is not without risks and limitations, and this focus on digital technologies has the potential to overlook the full range of work being done across a range of communication platforms.

In recognition of this, this workshop seeks to explore what strategic communications looks like in a Pacific context, and how communication platforms and processes can be mobilised to link and support feminist, women's rights activists across the region.

Firstly as the session is focused on building relationships among Pacific based activists by drawing from experiences using a variety of communication platforms.

The workshop is divided into two sessions. This first session is focused on sharing experiences by drawing on case studies from Pacific activists and exploring their use of a variety of communication platforms and messages.

Intergenerational and Intersectional Feminism

Organiser & Speakers: Fiji Young Women's Forum, FRIDA – Young Feminist Fund and Emerging Leaders' Forum Alumni

Young women play a vital role in the sustainability and movement building of women's rights organisations and feminist spaces. However, in the Pacific context, there many challenges to the active and valued participation of young women in decision making from the community to the policy levels.

This session aspires to share learned experiences on young women's advocacy in Fiji and the Pacific and advocate and inspire regional networks and donor agencies to invest in young women's leadership programmes and advocacy.

Women and Constitution Building in the Pacific

Organiser: Constitution Transformation Network

Speakers: Anna Dziedzic, Tara Chetty, Kathryn Relang and Women's Rights Action Movement Representative

The involvement of women in constitution building is essential to producing a constitution that respects and promotes women and fostering a sense of ownership of the constitution. Women and women's organisations in the Pacific have a critical role in constitution building. They contribute directly to making a new constitution, for example by participating in the constitution making process, making submissions and giving feedback on draft texts. Often, they also play a key role educating constitution-makers and the people about how a constitution can address women's rights and needs. Once a new constitution (or new amendments) are made, women also have a critical role in ensuring that the constitution is implemented in a gender-responsive way, working with institutions of government, civil society and the international community.

There is considerable and diverse constitution building currently occurring in the Pacific region. Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are currently engaged in constitution making. Fiji and Tonga are in the process of implementing new constitutions or substantive constitutional amendments. Other states in the region have engaged in constitutional amendment and law reform for a range of reasons, including to increase the representation of women in parliaments.

This workshop brings together women involved in these processes to share their knowledge and experience in constitution building, raise awareness about the range of constitution building underway in the region and the ways in which Pacific women are involved, and to build connections between women in the region engaged in constitution building across the region with the aim of providing a network for support and advice.

Women and Girls Access to Education

Organisers: Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition

Speakers: Anne Pakoa, Ann Sharon Pakoa and Elodie Nimisa

This session uses participatory methodologies to engage sharing of views participants on education in their communities and identifying advocacy strategies to increase investment on women and girls education.

The session aims to:

- To allow participants to share their personal walks in their school life, the challenges faced and achievements and be able to encourage other participants who are less fortunate to rethink education as their empowering tool to access a good paying job.
- To train participants to understand some of the major underlying key education issues faced by our region such as problems of illiteracy, youth unemployment and other education policies issues.
- To upskill participants' advocacy skills by allowing them to participate in exciting learning methodologies.

Beyond Pads and Buckets - Gender in Humanitarian Action

Organisers: UN Women

Speakers: Tara Chetty, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Noelene Nabulivou and Naeemah Khan Pacific Island Nations are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. According to the World Risks Index Report (2015) Vanuatu tops the list of the nation with the highest disaster risk. Vanuatu is followed by Tonga which is ranked second in the risk index. The Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji are all ranked in the top 15 at risk countries in the world.

The effects of climate change are predicted to make natural disasters a regular and unpredictable occurrence in the Pacific region and as a result Pacific Island nations are more vulnerable than ever.

Increasingly Pacific feminists and women's rights activists find that working in a humanitarian context is a large

part of their realities. Recent experiences in responding to natural disasters have shown that women's needs and rights are often overlooked in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. While women may bear the brunt of the effects of climate change and natural disasters, too often women are under-represented in the decision-making structures that determine and drive humanitarian assistance. There is also a lack of gender or feminist analysis done when the work is done. With no understanding of power relations or how socio/political/cultural factors shape women and their realities. This can result in a standard humanitarian response that reduces women's specific needs to the provision of 'dignity' and 'wash' kits, which is basically amounts to giving women 'pads' and 'buckets'.

The aim of this session is to create discussion and provide a platform for a diverse group of women and feminists to share their experiences of engaging in humanitarian work. It should stimulate new connections across the movement about how Pacific feminists can understand, engage and shape how humanitarian action takes place in the region and how to build on the experiences of women from different identities, to talk about and how to engage women as agents of change and not recipients of 'gendered' items.

Trade Agreements Undermining Women's Rights & Exacerbating Climate Change

Organisers: Asia Pacific Forum Women Law & Development (APWLD)

Speakers: Wardarina, Betty Barkha

The workshop will address the neo-liberal economic policies that has been promoted in the Pacific, both through regional economic policies and the rise of new 21st century mega free trade agreements such as PACER Plus. In particular the session aims at:

- To understand the geopolitical context and drive of mega regional trade agreements
- To understand the impact of trade agreement on women's rights and climate change in the Pacific
- To strengthen Pacific feminist movement's activism/mobilization around neo-liberal trade agreements

The Pacific Island and territories, with its many islands, its rich diversity of cultures and large ocean territory is currently under threat. With one of the highest vulnerabilities to both slow onset climate change and climate related disasters, Pacific Islanders have the most to lose from a continuation of the current economic and political global system. At yet at the same time Pacific Islands are being encouraged to welcome and expand neo-liberal economic policies. The same policy that has completely failed the majority of the earth, and has especially failed rural, indigenous, urban poor and migrant women of the Pacific. Women and girls continue to face discrimination and inequality in access to education, nutrition and health services, sexual and reproductive health services, decision-making, bear the brunt of climate disasters, continually loosing access to and control over information and communication, land and other resources, and remain amongst the most economically marginalized.

Day 3 Wednesday 30 November

Realities of Organising as Feminists in Rural and remote Pacific SIDS

Organisers: Diverse Voices and Action for Equality Speakers: Lucille Chute, Lipo Rairogo, Lilly Besoer, Kathryn Relang, Noelene Nabulivou

This workshop comes out of a stated concern of feminists and WHRDs in Fiji and around the region to work together to address some of the hardest obstacles to moving feminist and women human rights work in Pacific small island states that are about rural, remote, non-urban activism and social organising, and the need for more explicit ideas and strategies to address these blocks and challenges.

Some of these challenges identified so far include non-inclusion, lack of resourcing, lack of political will (or deliberate blocking), overall patriarchal and/or faith based control, stigma and violence levels, reach of the state/civil society and development and CROP agencies (or lack of it), and more.

The session explores questions such as: What can we do as a movement, to help shift these obstacles? What new knowledge, tools and strategies can we develop over time, by and for feminists and WHRDS in Pacific small island states and territories?

Building a feminist movement through communications: A regional exchange

Organiser: FRIDA Advisory Committee, International Women's Development Agency and the Developmental Leadership Program with the Institute of Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University
Facilitators: Shazia Usman (FRIDA Advisory Committee/Pacific feminist activist), Tait Brimacombe (Developmental Leadership Program), Meghan Cooper and Brianna Davidson (IWDA)

The Pacific's 'digital revolution' has expanded on the range of communication platforms available to advocates, activists and human rights defenders throughout the region. Increasing popularity of social media has proved a valuable platform for Pacific feminists to engage in digital activism, providing an alternative to mainstream media for raising awareness and promoting dialogue on key human rights issues. However, engagement in this space is not without risks and limitations, and this focus on digital technologies has the potential to overlook the full range of work being done across a range of communication platforms.

In recognition of this, this workshop seeks to explore what strategic communications looks like in a Pacific context, and how communication platforms and processes can be mobilised to link and support feminist, women's rights activists across the region.

Firstly as the session is focused on building relationships among Pacific based activists by drawing from experiences using a variety of communication platforms.

The workshop is divided into two sessions. This second session is focused on applying lessons from case studies discussed in Session 6, to identify way that communications can be used to sustain relationships in the Pacific feminist movement and drive action across the region.

Consultation on the draft of the new Pacific Platform for Action

Organisers: Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Speakers: Brigitte Leduc, Joanne Lee Kunatuba and Mereoni Tavakaturaga and Veena Singh

The session is meant to be interactive and introduce the draft Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality & Women's Human Rights followed by a market place type of consultation on each of the proposed strategic objectives; and ending with a summary of the consultation.

The last Women Ministers Meeting held in Rarotonga in 2013 directed Pacific Community, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, to review the Revised Pacific Platform for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality. The review recommended: SPC, in partnership with PIFS, should coordinate the development of a regional platform or plan of action for gender equality and the advancement of women, with input from all PICTs, which aligns with the SAMOA pathway and the proposed new stand-alone goal for gender equality in the SDGs and also incorporates the gender-related issues affecting all other new SDGs, including any relating to development effectiveness. This could be framed as revision or expansion of the PLGED, or as a new instrument.

The new Pacific Platform is a regional charter which proposes strategic objectives to accelerate the implementation of the commitments to gender equality made by the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories through CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Actions, the Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration and the goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and national gender equality policies. The Platform does not aim to propose a new set of priorities for gender equality and women's human rights but rather focuses on the means of implementation to achieve what has been already committed.

The 5 strategic objectives proposes are:

- To further generate knowledge to inform policy making, raise awareness and support advocacy for gender equality
- To mainstream gender across all legislations, policies, programs and services delivered by government, CROP and CSOs
- To develop and strengthen effective partnerships – governments, CSO, private sector, FBO – so that women and men of all ages, status, and conditions, individually and collectively, are empowered to prevent violence and all forms of discrimination
- To mobilise resources and sustain investments to advance gender equality
- Establish mechanisms and systems to make stakeholders accountable to implement commitments on gender equality

Navigating Diversity: The Fiji Women's Forum experiences - Storytelling

Organisers: Fiji Women's Forum

Speakers: Adi Finau Tabakaucoro, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Michelle Reddy, Fay Volatabu

The Fiji Women's Forum is one of the catalytic case studies that showcases the mobilization of women. The Fiji Women's Forum is the first in the Fiji & the Pacific in working across women's movement. The session provides an opportunity for the Fiji Women's Forum to share with Pacific feminists the experiences of mobilizing women from community to national level in amplifying women's interest in the leading role towards democratisation in Fiji. Building on the power of numbers has allowed the Fiji Women's Forum to echo voices of women in Fiji. The session would be structured in a form of storytelling, where each of the co conveners of the Fiji Women's Forum share their experiences through story telling.

Change at Work

Facilitator: PFF Consultant Writer

Pacific women walk the talk. This session will focus on deliberations over the Pacific Feminist Charter.

PFF Participants

PARTICIPANT	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Mei Milly	ELFA - Koroipita Settlement	Fiji, Ba
Maria Vakaoqotabua	DIVA - Taveuni	Fiji Taveuni
Josefa Pilipo Rairogo	House Of Colours	Fiji, Labasa
Mere Yabakivou	DIVA - Tavua	Fiji, Tavua
Kasaya Lovodua	DIVA - Lautoka	Fiji, Lautoka
Adi Finau	Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei	Fiji, Suva
Lanieta Tuimabu	Fiji Disable Peoples Federation	Fiji, Suva
Judie Vakameau	DIVA - Labasa	Fiji, Labasa
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Jasmine Kaur	Oceania Pride	Fiji, Suva
Lucille Chute	DIVA for Equality / Femlink Pacific	Fiji, Labasa
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Jone Nasilasila	House Of Colours	Fiji, Labasa
Paulini Tamasasa	FRU	Fiji, Suva
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Bonita Qio	Community Correspondent	Fiji, Suva
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Elodie Nimis	Vanuatu Young Women for Change	Vanuatu
Anne Pakoa	Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition	Vanuatu
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Teretia Tokam	Freelancer	Kiribati
Jayline Malverus	Vanuatu Pride	Vanuatu, Pot Vila
Florence Naina	Bougainville Women's Federation	PNG
Lani Wendt	Teacher, writer, publisher, speaker	Samoa
Savina Nongenbatu	People with Disability Solomon Islands	Solomons, Honiara
Cedella Nongebatu	People with Disability Solomon Islands	Solomons, Honiara
Audrey Seru	DIVA for Equality	Fiji
Maria Nailevu	DIVA MC - SGBV, Climate justice, Access to Justice	Fiji
Uha Fifita	DIVA MC - HIV and AIDS, Health, SRHR, Over 40s	Fiji
Sereima Damuni	DIVA MC -Sports and Wellbeing Hub	Fiji
Kini Tinai (replacing Viva)	Patriots Community Club	Fiji
Mamta Chand	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Lillian Delana	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Alanieta Veilulu	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Daiana Taoba	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Losana Tuiraviravi	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Abigail Aguilar (PFF Local Gunded)	Fiji Women's Rights Movement (GIRLS)	Fiji
Shazia Usman	Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	Fiji
Tara Chetty	Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	Fiji
Linda Petersen	Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	Fiji
Naemah Khan	UN Women	Fiji

UN Women Staff	UN Women	Fiji
UN Women Staff	UN Women	Fiji
Joanne Kunatuba	SPC/Fiji	Fiji
Brigitte Leduc	SPC/Noumea	Fiji
Mereoni Robinson	SPC	Fiji
Veena Singh	SPC	Fiji
Vilisi Gadolo	Citizens' Constitutional Forum	Fiji
Tarusila Bradburgh	Pacific Youth Council	Fiji
Aatika Patel	Emerging Leaders Forum Alumni	Fiji
Charlotte Taylor	FAWG	Fiji
Isabelle Gurney	International Planned Parenthood Federation	Fiji
Julianne Verma	Gemini Management PTE/Leadership Fiji	Fiji
Justine Maravu	Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding	Fiji
Krishneil Narayan	PICAN	Fiji
Salanieta Weleilakeba	Fiji Media Watch	Fiji
Vasiti Rotauluva	Tailevu Provincial Council	Fiji
Alena Korovulavula	Viseisei Village	Fiji
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Sharon Rolls	Femlink	Fiji
Alisia Evans	Femlink	Fiji
Lilly Besoer	Voice of Change	PNG, Goroka
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Brianna Davidson	IWDA	Australia
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Tait McCrombe	IWDA	Australia
"Kiugui Be'Soer"	Voice For Change	PNG
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Elena Leddra		Australia
Donna McSkimming		Australia
Donna Yeatman IWDA PHOTOGRAPHER		Australia
Donna Makini	WRAM	Solomons
Mele Maualaivao	Samoa UN Women	Samoa
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Ofa Guteenbeil-Likiliki	Tonga Women & Childrens Crisis Centre	Tonga.
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Wardarina	APWLD/ (AP-RCEM)	Thailand
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Wendy Magea	Pacific Youth Council	PNG
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Naomi Woyengu	YWCA of Papua New Guinea	PNG
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June White	Haus of Khamelon	Fiji
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Kavita	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
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Paul Volau	Bold Alliance	Fiji
Ren Slatter	Bold Alliance	Fiji
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Vika Kalokalo	DIVA for Equality	Fiji
Abhishek Chand	USP Journalist	Fiji
USP Journalist	USP Journalist	Fiji

PFF Volunteers

June White	Haus of Khamelon
Funmaru	Haus of Khamelon
Menka Goundar	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
Laurette Prasad	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
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Alisha Kahn	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
Shyana Ali	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
Kautea Tora	Bold Alliance
Paul Volau	Bold Alliance
Ren Slatter	Bold Alliance
Sesenieli Bui Naitala	Survival Advocacy Network
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Vilimaina Naqeleuvuki	USP Journalist
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Kelvin Singh	Youth Volunteer

What to Do in Suva

https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Attractions-g294337-Activities-Suva_Viti_Levu.html

Acknowledgement









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