



PACIFIC FEMINIST FORUM 2022

Embracing the collective power of our movements

Fiji National Feminist Forum As part of the 3rd Pacific Feminist Forum

Outcome Statement

The first ever Fiji National Feminist Forum took place from 02 - 04 November 2022 in Pacific Harbour, Fiji.

The forum brought together over 80 women and feminists from their own constituencies. Our diversities include; women, girls, lesbians, bisexual, trans diverse people, gender non-conforming identities, ethnically diverse women and girls, indigenous women, women with disabilities, sex workers, widows, women living in rural and remote areas, young women, older women, heterosexual women, women in sports, women in non-traditional roles, women from faith-based communities, women in creative industries and women in the informal sector and others.¹ Part of this outcome document is ensuring that process and structures of all future Fiji National Feminist Forums continue to work on the representation of this diversity.

With the theme of *Embracing the Collective Power of our Movements*, we have gathered to learn, unlearn, and re-learn, express our commitments and solidarity to each other, to share our stories and journeys as part of the women's movement in Fiji; and to discuss in a safe space key concerns for us such as solidarity in the movement, the intersectionality of our realities, climate justice, disability inclusion, health and mental wellness, perceptions of leadership and representations of women in leadership.

The two-days for us have been a privilege, inspiring, thought-provoking, frustrating, confrontational, emotional, educational, motivational, experiential, liberating, empowering, and, embracing.

Our demands for our feminist futures:

1. We realise and acknowledge the importance of listening to and understanding individual journeys in the women's movement as it bears insights into how we have intersected and

¹ From here on when we mention 'women and girls' we refer to specific identities and needs of lesbians, bisexual, trans people, intersex people, and other non-heteronormative Pacific identities, indigenous women, migrant women and girls, women with disabilities, and women with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, sex workers, women living in rural and remote places, young women, the girl child, single mothers, older women, heterosexual women, women in sports, and creative industries.

interacted with the issues that we have faced. We must continue to create the space to hear diverse stories from women across our islands. Sometimes it is through the untold stories that we find the strength and courage to continue the work we do.

2. We will work in collaboration with other stakeholders, to build a better future than the current patriarchal, complex world with so much injustice and violence. We must now be stronger, assertive, and connected to ensure that there is lasting and meaningful solidarity in the movement.
3. The climate crisis is a reality for us in Fiji. We must urgently unite to address and demand for social, economic, ecological, gender, and climate justice. We have waited long enough. We need to work explicitly on the loss and damage that we are experiencing right now.
4. Traditional, grassroots, indigenous, feminist, and women's knowledge must be valued by all as we are the experts of our lived realities, issues, and solution bearers. There is an urgent need to capture and document the traditional knowledge and skills of all ethnic groups for intergenerational sharing and learning. Indigenous people have the right to revitalise, use, develop and transmit to future generations our history, languages, oral traditions and philosophies.
5. We must promote intergenerational and inclusive leadership in all spaces to ensure transformative change, and strive for 50% representation of women, not only in politics but in all spaces of power- from the grassroots to the national level.
6. We, as women and human rights defenders, need to prioritise our well-being and health care. We as part of women's organisations need to develop and implement participative feminist programmes on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with a focus on health and mental wellness, bodily autonomy, power negotiation, assertive communications and focus on commodities, service delivery and frontline protocols for urban poor, rural and maritime areas.
7. We want more such forums to be organised where we will endeavour to have more women from all over Fiji. We need such spaces to be full of diverse women so that we can continue to be inspired and strengthen the movement. We must develop a roadmap to action for the feminist future we want that must include more resource mobilisation for grassroots organising.
8. The inclusion of diversity and intersectionality in future feminist forums is a must. The voices of women with disabilities must be recognised and amplified so that they can share their lived experiences to allow us to be better prepared to include them in all our convenings.

The Fiji National Feminist Forum was convened by BIRTH Fiji, Fiji Disabled People's Federation, femLINKPacific, Strumphet Alliance Network, DIVA for Equality, and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM).