



# PACIFIC FEMINIST FORUM 2022

*Embracing the collective power of our movements*

## **West Papua Feminist Forum** As part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Feminist Forum **Outcome Statement**

West Papua Feminist Forum (WPF) has been implemented on 28 November 2022 at Sunni Hotel, Jayapura, West Papua.

There are approximately 40 feminists who eagerly attended the WPF as individuals as well as representation of organization and communities. Our diversities consisting of women, girls, indigenous women, non-indigenous women, women with disabilities, young women, older women, women from faith-based communities, women in politics, women in informal sectors, academics, pro-independence women activists, LGBT communities and internally displaced peoples (IDPs).

This space is a historic moment for West Papuan women. For the very first time in our history that there is an inclusive space that brought all women in diversity. We all realize that we are living in the conflict region and our realities have been overshadowed by political and security conflict. Many have put their hopes for more discussion and strategic advocacy in the future.

With the theme of *Embracing the Collective Power of our Movement*, we found our space to really think about what we have been through as individuals and collective, we learned and re-learned, we were angry and shared our disappointment, we reflected, but we also tried to find our common needs and deeply thought about our strategy as collective.

As an inclusive women, we want to re-create movement that based on our Papua's knowledge and experiences in advocating ecological justice, sexual and reproductive health and rights, inclusive leadership and participations, rights for freedom expression, and decolonization.

Therefore, we committed to launch a West Papua Feminist Forum (WFFF). This will be our space to promote collective movement nationally and regionally. We also hope that our issues can be heard and advocated not only by West Papuan but also international society.

### **Our demands for our feminist futures :**

1. We realise that West Papuan women realities have been put under the curtain for decades resulted in the lack of knowledge and solidarity towards our issues globally. Therefore, there is an urgent need to document the current situation and challenges faced by women in diversities, specifically indigenous women and internally displaced women in armed conflict zones.
2. We need to support indigenous West Papuan women who are now striving to reclaim their knowledge, their land and identity, their culture that have been oppressed by the global capitalism and paternalistic development conducted in Tanah Papua. We need to document the existing indigenous knowledge, their best practices in managing their resources, their survival strategy and to collectively strategise our advocacy.
3. The ongoing oppression made us realise the need to have more dialogue about decolonization in all aspects of life. We need to genuinely discuss the origin, the manifestation and the impact of decolonization on our humanitarian situation. We can start by tracing back the history of decolonization movement initiated by women, opening up the discussion, publicising our research or thoughts as well as utilizing the social media as a space to decolonize ourselves and our society.
4. We need a comprehensive and holistic response, that will make it possible to break down initial barriers and to address the underlying causes of the exclusion of women in politics. We must promote intergenerational and inclusive women leadership in all spaces to ensure the systemic changes in Tanah Papua. We believe that women in diversities, especially indigenous women, must have strategic position in parliament, regional

election bodies, and government in both local and national level. By engaging in politics, we can effectively influence the policy-making process to create just and equal society.

5. In the context of ongoing oppression in West Papua, we realize the need to create more spaces to channel our thoughts and perspectives. Critical education for women on the importance of freedom expressions are required in West Papua. We need to produce and reproduce our feminist thinking regarding our realities and disseminate them through journal, online and offline media, books, articles, video, arts and other instruments.
6. Realising the sexual and reproductive health and rights is critical to our feminist future. We need to find the current information about the needs, services available and challenges faced by women seeking to claim their rights. We need to utilise the human-rights based approaches to empower us to claim our rights and duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations. This includes highlighting the situation of HIV-AIDS in Tanah Papua and to link the issues with the regional advocacy.
7. We realise that issues of women with disabilities and LGBT are rarely discussed in West Papua. What is needed is to build solidarity, strengthen the advocacy, and ensure their access and rights to public services and politics.
8. We want more feminist forum and spaces to learn and re-learn, to share, to unpack the untold stories, to reflect , and to collaborate.
9. We need to ensure that in the future more west Papuan feminists, including indigenous, human rights defenders, women with disabilities, women from faith-based communities, internally displaced women can talk and share their stories and struggle in more influential spaces regionally and globally. We need more spaces to connect our issues and realities because we demand more global solidarity.

**West Papua Feminist Forum (WPF)**