



Who we are

The Women Deliver Oceanic Pacific convening from 11 to 12 May 2023 in Pacific Harbour, Fiji gathered together 36 people, inclusive of Women Deliver Pacific Regional Committee Members, civil society activists, allies and observers. We represent and embody Pacific women, girls and gender non-binary people in all our diversities¹.

Building on Pacific gender equality efforts: This Outcomes Document draws on the 3rd Pacific Feminist Forum Outcomes Document (May 2023), the Outcomes of the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 7th Women's Ministerial Meeting, 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights 2018 - 2030, and the most recent Outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Women Deliver 2023 and its link to gender equality and feminist regional and national processes and spaces

The 2023 Global Women Deliver Conference convenes thousands of decision-makers and policy makers from civil society, governments, the private sector, and local, national, regional and international agencies alongside advocates, activists, and journalists to identify solutions and drive change for gender equality.

It is an opportunity for those working towards gender equality in the Pacific region to strategically engage in this global arena. Building on the mana from the 1st to 3rd Pacific Feminist Forums and regional engagements such as the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 7th Women's Ministerial Meeting, delegates of the Women Deliver Oceanic Pacific Convening present their key priorities for advocacy, engagement and action.

¹ Our diversities include: women, girls, lesbians, bisexual, queer and trans-diverse people, gender nonconforming people, ethnically diverse women and girls, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, sex workers, women living with HIV and AIDS, widows, women living in rural and remote areas, young and older women and women throughout the life cycle, heterosexual women, women in sports, women in non-traditional roles and industries, women from faith-based communities, women in creative industries, women in the informal sector, women in private sector, micro, small, medium enterprises, and more.

Key messages

- 1. Climate Justice:** The Pacific is at the frontlines of the climate crisis, sitting at the nexus of worsening disasters, accelerating biodiversity loss, and threats to our ocean, all compounded by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and in some places, the long term impacts of conflict. Any work on women's rights and gender equality must operate across humanitarian, disaster, development and peace contexts. Our lived experiences, countries and peoples must not be siloed into "projects, "issues" or "parts of a programme cycle."
- 2. Decolonisation:** A massive paradigm shift from unequal colonial practices to one that places power and reimagining, co-design, co-creation, co-responsibility and co- accountability is critical to developing equitable partnerships and achieving empowered relationships with the Pacific².
- 3. Leadership and representation:** Progress to achieving gender equality in the region has been slowed by both structural barriers and underlying social, cultural and economic barriers. There is an urgent need to focus on adopting a range of legal, social and political measures that will support the participation of women of all diversities in decision-making positions – at local, national, regional and international levels and in all institutions in public and private spheres.
- 4. Resourcing for women's rights:** There is an urgent need for gender responsive and transformative funding for gender equality and all aspects of Pacific development justice, including the funding and resourcing of autonomous Pacific feminist and women's organising.
- 5. Care work and economic justice:** It is important to situate unpaid care, domestic and communal work in the context of advancement of gender justice, the right to development and human rights. One of the specific SDG targets for all Member States under SDG5 is to *"recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family."*
- 6. Gender-based violence:** Pacific women and girls experience twice the global average rates of GBV/VAWG. Women and girls with disabilities experience much higher rates of GBV/VAWG. It is a gross human rights violation wielded by individuals, communities, states, laws and institutions. It must end. Gender-based violence has no place in our societies, culture, faith or traditional spaces. It has damaging impacts on survivors, families, communities and societies.
- 7. Sexual and reproductive health and rights:** Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are human rights. They are essential for sustainable development because of their links to gender equality and women's wellbeing, impact on bodily autonomy and integrity, sexual decision making, maternal, newborn, child, and women's health throughout the life cycle, and their roles in shaping future socio-economic and ecological sustainability, development and climate justice.

² [Penny Wong dives deep into the audacity of the Oceanic Pacific | Lowy Institute](#)

- 8. Backlash:** There is clear global and local backlash against human rights and dignity, gender justice and women's human rights. We have observed a profound shift in the current social, economic, ecological and climate landscape. The situation is dire as economic and non-economic loss and damage rises in the Pacific region and globally, but the political will is not yet enough to make the change we need to protect ourselves, other species and the living planet. We will work to change this for ourselves and all the generations coming after us.

1. Climate justice

Issue as we define it: The climate crisis is the greatest threat facing the well-being, security and livelihoods of Pacific peoples. Climate change and related disasters impact women and girls in all their diversity and persons of diverse PIDSOGIESC³ disproportionately, while women's knowledge and resilience are undervalued and overlooked. Climate injustice poses the greatest immediate, urgent, existential threat to all communities in the Pacific and globally. This exacerbates existing socio-economic disparities and inequalities, including between urban, rural and maritime areas, and undermines long-term resilience and economic justice. The science is clear that use of fossil fuels is responsible for the climate emergency. Further, the linked climate, economic and ecological crisis is a symptom of coloniality, corporate interest, geopolitics of the military industrial complex, agribusiness and capitalist growth paradigms. These systems are patriarchal and oppress all women and girls, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, minorities and those marginalised in societies, with all Global Majority countries and communities.

In 2009, Global Minority⁴ countries agreed to mobilise [US\\$100 billion per year by 2020](#). This goal has never been achieved. The huge global climate finance gap is further highlighted by the [disproportionate impacts](#) felt by Global Majority⁵ countries including Pacific Small Island States, which have [contributed the least](#) to climate crisis and have the fewest resources to address climate related loss and damage, adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, localisation, finance and more as agreed in the Paris Agreement, a minimum multilateral agreement toward climate justice, that is to be ratcheted up every 5 years, including the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender.

The Pacific calls for an urgent move to social, economic, ecological and climate systems that place gender just human rights, care, wellbeing, health, social provisioning, peace and human security at the centre of our lives and societies.

Key messages

- **Fossil Fuel Free Pacific:** Protecting ourselves, our *Vanua*, *Solwara* and *Moana*, other species and the living Planet by working toward a Fossil Fuel-Free Pacific and a global urgent, just, and equitable phase-out of coal, oil, and gas;
- **Reaffirm our positions to:**
 - Strongly reject and fight the proposal of Japan to release 1.3 million tonnes of treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean.
 - Adopt a Pacific Island Forum Leaders Declaration for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific that empowers the Pacific to spearhead the unqualified, global, just and equitable phase out of coal, oil and gas production in line with global temperature goal of below 1.5 degrees C.
 - Join the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance
 - Call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty
 - Commit to transparently disclose our fossil fuel investment and projects including through the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and Global Registry of Fossil Fuels
 - Substantively invest in state and aid commitments to UNFCCC Gender National Focal Points

3 Pacific Island Diversity Sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics

4 Global Minority is the inversion of Global Majority, see below

5 Global Majority refer to people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual heritage, indigenous to the Global South, and have been referred to as ethnic minorities. It challenges the notion of being "ethnic minorities" to reclaiming it as "ethnic majorities"

- Prioritize and fast-track the UN General Assembly’s consensus decision of 29 March 2023 to call on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue an Advisory Opinion on the human rights and legal obligations of States regarding climate change.
- **Gender-transformative climate financing:** Advocate for and prioritise climate financing decision making and implementation spaces at national, regional and global levels that are accessible and responsive to the needs of all women and girls and their communities; free of red-tape and bureaucracy in order to increase accessibility and equity for women, girls, activists and human rights defenders; and support the closing of gender inequities and discriminatory practices.
- **Climate, GBV and SRHR:** Acknowledge the link between climate change, disaster risks, GBV and SRHR, and ensure all women and girls can access GBV and SRHR information and services including in times of disaster.
- **A human rights-based approach:** Acknowledge the link between gender equality and climate change impacts and the need to consider a human rights-based approach at the legislative, policy and programme level that is contextualized using cultural practices, norms and proverbs
- **Economic and non-economic loss and damage:** Forward authentic, accountable conversations and actions with Pacific Island Leaders, governments and climate stakeholders on economic and non-economic [loss and damage commitments, including the fund for vulnerable communities, from COP 27](#) and their operationalization across Pacific countries and contexts.

2. Decolonization, power shifting, indigenous solidarity and indentured/forced labour

Issue as we define it: We resist all forms of oppression across the region with a clear analysis that patriarchy and the oppression of women and girls is a key tactic in colonial and imperial approaches and legacies. Pacific feminists including Indigenous women human rights defenders are at the helm of self-determination movements, such as in West Papua, Kanaky New Caledonia, Bougainville, First Nations people of Australia and others; and demilitarisation movements call for accountability from nuclear testing and waste disposal; deep-sea and land-based mining, and call for decoloniality, indigenization and reclamation of culture, language, values and ways of life, among others.

Both decolonization and re-indigenization are essential for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The struggle for decolonization and independence in the Pacific spans reclamation of land and resources, fighting for the right to exist, political freedom, decolonizing culture and institutions, calling for reparations, calling for collective healing, combatting extractive industries and trade, and resisting violent militarization and securitization.

Pacific feminists are clear that colonial power systems and structures operate within and through development and humanitarian aid apparatuses. Global Minority, Western and/or hegemonic States and institutions have proliferated a rhetoric of “localization” that simplifies a nuanced process of transformative power (re)distribution that runs the risk of depoliticization, increasing backlash and diluting agency of women in the Global Majority.

Key messages

- **Global solidarity with the Pacific:** Resource and support our co-creation of a Pacific map of military and economic occupation and presence across the region to document our experiences and plan for resistance and action;

- **Defund and demobilise:** It is urgent to defund and demobilise troops and military activities that have current and historic presence in the Pacific;
- **Equal and meaningful leadership:** Any decolonization effort requires the equal and meaningful leadership of Pacific gender justice advocates and movements and nothing short of a fight for solidarity to the highest levels of engagement, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ), UN and other global legal and human rights arenas and processes of redress.
- **Indentured and forced labour legacies:** Acknowledge the realities and history of Indentured labourers in the Pacific and their descendants is an important part of acknowledging the complex and painful colonial history of the Pacific region that displaced millions under colonial rule and the extraction of labour from Global Majority communities.
- **Power shift in development spaces:** Advocate for a power shift with development partners, UN agencies, and funders to not dilute, displace and commodify feminist movements and calls to action.
- **Regional leadership and solidarity:** Regional commitments and solidarity from Pacific Leaders, CROP⁶ and UN Agencies must support the political freedom and status of colonised and occupied Pacific territories and increase recognition at global United Nations level.

3. Leadership, representation and political participation

Issue as we define it: Progress to achieving gender equality in the region has been slowed by both structural barriers and underlying social, cultural and economic barriers, such as:

- harmful social norms and exclusionary practices
- lack of acknowledgement of gender equality as a priority in legal and policy frameworks
- limited resourcing for addressing gender inequality issues
- limited capacity within governments for gender-responsive policies and programmes
- weak leadership and lack of political will for addressing gender equality.

There is an urgent need to focus on adopting a range of legal, social and political measures that will support the participation of women of all diversities in decision-making positions – at local, national, regional and international levels and in all institutions in public and private spheres.

Key messages

- **Leaders and decision-makers** must create an enabling environment for Pacific women and gender diverse leaders from grassroots communities and civil society to take up substantive, formal leadership in mainstream political parties, and throughout all areas of Pacific societies. (PFF, 2023)
- **Affirmative action, including Temporary Special Measures (TSM) and Permanent Specific Measures (PSM)** includes implementation through constitutional change, legislative and policy reform, as required. These are permanent until altered Legislative reform to address historic and systemic barriers to women's participation in politics through affirmative action. (PFF, 2023)
- **Recognize the efforts and contributions** of smaller, community and grassroots-led organisations in leadership. (PFF, 2023)
- Explicitly **ensuring inclusion of Pacific women** from high poverty, urban informal settlements, rural, maritime and remote island communities in all national and regional development and human rights processes; (PFF, 2023)
- **Adopt measures to increase women's participation in all levels** of leadership and decision making including political representation, senior positions in the public and private sector and within local and communal governance systems. (Triennial, 2021)

⁶ CROP agencies include: Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Aviation Safety Office, Pacific Power Association, Pacific Islands Development Programme, The Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Pacific Tourism Organisation, The University of the South Pacific, Pacific Islands Forum

- **Accountability:** 1) Demonstrate the removal of barriers to all women's participation in decision-making and enforce equal opportunity practices. 2) Resource and monitor strategies to strengthen leadership. 3) Ensure transparency and inclusiveness in recruitment, selection and appointment processes. (PPA 2018-2030)
- **Gender mainstreaming:** 1) Generate opportunities at all levels of decision-making for participation by women of all diversities. 2) Increase women's political participation at all levels. 3) Introduce measures to achieve gender parity in senior government positions, including in constitutional bodies and state-owned businesses. 4) Initiate legal and constitutional reviews or reforms to increase the number of women in national parliaments and legislatures. (PPA, 2018-2030)
- **Support the full participation of women in peace and security processes** – by protecting women's and girls' human rights during humanitarian crises and in transitional and post-conflict contexts (Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2012).
- **Support the production and dissemination of relevant gender statistics**, and research on priority gender equality and intergenerational issues, and use of this knowledge for sound decision-making, communication and advocacy. It provides an opportunity to document good practices in addressing gender inequality, to integrate a gender perspective in sectoral programmes, and to further encourage learning, sharing and dialogue across the region. Such sharing already demonstrates that positive change can happen and is happening in our region. There is an ongoing need for increased advocacy and communication on gender equality to support the fundamental premise that without gender equality, sustainable development cannot be achieved. (PPA, 2018-2030)
- **Practicing intergenerational, intersectional leadership** in all national and regional political spaces. (PFF, 2023)
- **Facilitation and support** for the entry of feminists and women human rights defenders into local, national and regional decision-making processes, including by ensuring that political party mechanisms guarantee co-leadership of women, and gender justice through zebra lists, minimum of 1 of 3 party positions held by women and legislative requirements for women's representation; (PFF, 2023)
- **Remove biases and stereotypes** in human resource policies, adopting practices to reduce gender gaps in hiring, promotion and pay, and establishing accountability mechanisms including appropriate protocols for pay equity processes, with objective criteria for initial pay and promotion, and regular reviews of pay equity, (Triennial, 2017)
- **Support ongoing efforts** of the private sector in creating and strengthening leadership pathways for women and demonstrating their capacity as leaders to shift social norms. (Triennial, 2021)
- **Investment:** 1) Increase resources to promote women's leadership in a sustained way. 2) Sustain long-term investment in civic education that promotes gender equality and women's human rights in all forms of leadership. 3) Provide resources to further build the capacity of women and men in leadership roles, and to increase the capacity of those aspiring to leadership. (PPA 2018-2030)
- **Knowledge:** 1) Strengthen understanding through research on the status of women in all forms of leadership in all arenas (including barriers and enabling strategies). 2) Advocate for inclusiveness in decision-making, using research and gender statistics to highlight benefits. 3) Strengthen leadership skills of women and men, including young women and men through diverse forms of capacity building.
- **Partnerships:** 1) Strengthen partnerships between politicians, candidates, leaders and civil society, and with the media, to promote positive messages on the benefits of gender equality and representation of women in leadership positions and decision-making. (PPA, 2018-2030)

4. Resourcing for women's rights

Issue as we define it: There is an urgent need for gender responsive and transformative funding for gender equality and all aspects of Pacific development justice, including the funding and resourcing of autonomous Pacific feminist and women's organising. Funding for gender equality needs to be targeted at transformative approaches which can 'shift the dial' towards greater equity for women and girls in all their diversity.

Feminist activism in the Pacific is affected by not just 'lack of resources', but also lack of equity. Few grassroots organisations enjoy access to, knowledge of, or skills to develop proposals. Even the opportunity to participate in discussions on what resources and where they should be deployed is the privilege of few. Small

and unregistered women's groups or collectives are among the most marginalised. On the other hand, bigger feminist groups often struggle to stay afloat, as it requires continuous mobilising of resources to ensure adequate funding for their programmes and partners.

Women's rights are challenged all over the world, however women living in the Pacific face intersecting challenges that can make them all but invisible to the rest of the world. While globally funders are increasing their funding for gender equality and women's empowerment, funding disbursements by OECD DAC members have stagnated over recent years in the Pacific. As outlined in "Where is the Money for Women and Girls in the Pacific? Mapping Challenges, Opportunities and Trends", research commissioned by Women's Fund Fiji, less than 1% of grant funding is directed to women's organisations in the region. The means of funding Pacific women's organisations (PWOs) is changing rapidly, bringing in new partners and a new way of working. But there is a gender data gap in relation to funding of PWOs. And there is a need to amplify and facilitate the voice of PWOs in funding decisions.

Key messages

- **Fund transformative approaches:** Ensure resourcing is directed at initiatives that are generated by and for the Pacific, which have the potential to 'shift the dial' towards greater equity for women and girls in all their diversity.
- **Apply the following principle for funding transformative feminist movements:**
 - Funding using a framework of intersectionality to guide feminist work
 - Increasing the scope beyond money by sustaining a culture of sharing and recognising the importance of knowledge, networks, people and in kind donations
 - Shifting the lens towards being seen as humans rather than projects, thereby enabling transformative funding towards building movements
 - Improving the transparency of funding data to facilitate a more informed and inclusive dialogue
 - Amplifying the voices and participation of Pacific Women's Organisations (PWO) and Disabled People's Organisations (DPO), PIDSOGIESC, in setting policy and funding decisions. PWOs, DPOs and PIDSOGIESC are uniquely placed to connect with the millions of women living across the region and help them build more secure and sustainable lives for themselves and their children. However, PWOs, DPOs and PIDSOGIESC need support and resources to do this in a flexible manner, allowing them to strengthen voice and leadership in their community, country and region;
- **Invest in national and regional women's funds in the Pacific** such as the newly launched Pacific Feminist Fund to unlock their ability to find new sources of funding for feminist organising for grass-roots mobilisation and advocacy for social justice at all levels.

5. Care work and economic justice

Issue as we define it: It is important to situate unpaid care, domestic and communal work in the context of advancement of gender justice, the right to development and human rights. Women in the Pacific, as elsewhere, do not yet access societal and state preconditions for development as freedom, justice and equity. One of the specific SDG targets for all Member States under SDG5, "*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*" is to, "*recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family.*"

Unpaid care work is gendered across all countries with women globally on average doing 2-3 times as much as men, with stark inequalities even higher in many SIDS, LDC, high- conflict and low-medium income countries⁷ ILO figures show women performing 76.2 percent of total hours of unpaid care work. In Asia and the

⁷ 2019. Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World. New York: UN Women.

Pacific, this rises to 80 per cent. Pacific women, as everyone, need adequate rest, leisure and self-care, while the reality is that most women instead carry an unsustainable burden on unpaid care, domestic and communal work. While care work is essential to the higher and healthy functioning of societies and economies it must be recognised, equitably redistributed and supported by societal norms and state policy. There is an urgent need for comprehensive care, social provisioning and social norm change⁸

Key messages

- **Justice for seasonal workers:** Justice initiatives for those workers who are seasonal, short-term workers.
- **Social protection:** Implement equitable, inclusive, accessible, sustainable, resilient and gender-responsive social protection policies and programmes for all women, including those in informal work, unpaid care and domestic work, self-employed, migrant workers, and those with disabilities or affected by long-term illnesses. Social protection policies must be grounded in a human rights-based approach, and strengthened by supportive and appropriate cultural practices.
- **Credit and financial services:** Reduce barriers to women's access to credit and financial services, especially for women in the informal sector, rural women, women and girls with disabilities, GBV survivors and those residing in areas under-served by financial institutions, including in the aftermath of disasters.
- **Labour protections for informal sector workers:** Establish or improve regulatory frameworks and enforcement of labour laws to ensure that informal sector workers and migrant workers have decent paid work and safe workplaces.
- **Unpaid care work:** Undertake transformative approaches to care work, including use of Rapid Care Analysis (RCA) and local, national, regional and global interventions on '6Rs', namely: **recognition**, **reduction and redistribution** of women's unpaid care, domestic and community work, **representation** of carers in all national processes, **reward** systems for unpaid care, domestic and communal work, and **reconfiguration** of nation-states and societies toward core values of universal human rights, gender justice, social, economic, ecological and climate justice.
- **Economic justice for survivors of GBV/VAWG:** Ensuring viable, survivor-centred and rights-based education and economic opportunities for women and girls in all their diversity to ensure safe pathways to prevent and recover from violence and to live with dignity.

6. Gender-based violence and violence against women and girls

Issue as we define it: Pacific women and girls experience twice the global average rates of GBV/VAWG. Women and girls with disabilities experience much higher rates of GBV/VAWG. It is a gross human rights violation wielded by individuals, communities, states, laws and institutions. It must end. Gender-based violence has no place in our societies, culture, faith or traditional spaces. It has damaging impacts on survivors, families, communities and societies. Women and girls lose their lives, suffer health problems of many kinds, including mental health, and acquire disabilities because of violence. Women and girls in all our diverse identities and life experiences disproportionately experience gender-based violence including violence perpetrated by our intimate partners, family members and institutions. Gender-based violence spans across physical, emotional, economic, sexual and coercive control violations with an increasing interplay of technology-facilitated violence that span digital and real-world experiences of violence and threats to safety. It stops the achievement of development justice. Gender-based violence is rooted in patriarchy, in a belief in the superiority and control by men and boys of others in society including women and girls. It affects all layers and dimensions of society from interpersonal to systemic. It harms everyone, enables and norms toxic and limited forms of masculinity for men and boys including an inability to be their true, authentic selves.

⁸ Nabulivou and Tagi, 2023 (Forthcoming). 'UNPAID CARE, DOMESTIC AND COMMUNAL WORK: A synthesis of Rapid Care Analysis in rural and maritime Fiji'. Oxfam in the Pacific.

Key messages

- **Urgent action** is required to address the erosion of bodily autonomy and integrity; increased control over our bodies; criminalization of sex work, people of diverse SOGIESC, people with disabilities and abortions; the concerning trend of sexual violence against girls and boys; and the lack of survivor-centered, rights-based SRHR and GBV/VAWG services for survivors especially in rural, maritime and remote island communities.
- **Multi-sectoral, coordinated, survivor-centered and holistic:** We require all efforts practice a multi-sectoral, coordinated, survivor-centered and holistic approach to prevention, response, advocacy and ethical/safe data collection recognizing over 30 years of local, innovative and homegrown approaches that set and influence best practice and standards in the region and globally.
- **Rural, maritime and remote island contexts:** Leadership at all levels, resources and basic needs infrastructure must be invested to comprehensively support and empower women and girls in all their diversity in the Pacific's diverse contexts.
- **No artificial siloes:** Any effort to address GBV/VAWG must operate across humanitarian/emergency, development and peace contexts with recognition that women and girls in all their diversity cannot be siloed.
- **Investment in prevention:** The Pacific leads some of the world's most innovative approaches to stopping violence before it starts. Prioritise and substantially resource transformative prevention solutions that are home grown, evidence-based, rights based and based on feminist principles. We need comprehensive approaches to stop violence before it starts in all spaces with learning and knowledge exchanges on what is already working to prevent GBV/VAWG,
- **Transformative change:** All efforts must address systemic gender inequities and structural violence by nurturing an enabling environment that condemns GBV/VAWG in all its forms. Ending GBV/VAWG requires
 - accountability and implementation of existing national laws
 - whole of government and whole of society approaches that include faith and traditional settings
 - Pacific Leader/CROP/UN accountability to implement regional commitments
 - Implementation of recommendations outlined in the [2022 Regional Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Services Symposium Outcomes Document](#) and the [14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women](#)

7. Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Issue as we define it: Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are human rights. They are essential for sustainable development because of their links to gender equality and women's wellbeing, impact on bodily autonomy and integrity, sexual decision making, maternal, newborn, child, and women's health throughout the life cycle, and their roles in shaping future socio-economic and ecological sustainability, development and climate justice. Yet, progress towards fulfilling SRHR for all has been stymied because of weak political commitment, inadequate resources, persistent discrimination against women and girls in all their diversity, and an unwillingness to address issues related to sexuality openly and comprehensively.

Women and girls with disabilities continue to be left behind when accessing health services, including mental health, as well as sexual and reproductive health services and information. This leads to discrimination exacerbated through attitudinal barriers and the lack of awareness of service providers. Women with disabilities experience discrimination and lack of access to appropriate medical care throughout pregnancy, during and post birth due to stigma and lack of understanding of their specific needs.

Key messages

- **Urgent access to SRHR:** We call to urgently advance national, government, civil society, multi-sectoral efforts to resource a health workforce, commodities, treatments, health facilities and community health approaches that provide the full spectrum of SRHR and women's health services including preventative care across the lifespan (nutrition, NCD prevention etc), family planning/contraception, safe abortion care, preventative and treatment care for cancers, care for all women and girls across the lifespan including older

women, maternal, neonatal and newborn health, health care for people of diverse PIDSOGIESC, sex workers, women and girls living with HIV and women and girls with disabilities and others.

- **Comprehensive sexuality education:** Call for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) for everyone (reiterated from our call for strategies in GBV/VAWG) within and linked to the health sector.
- **SRHR and Disability Justice:** Reiterating the need for all service providers to receive disability sensitization training, including on maternal health services, mental health interventions, sexual and reproductive health and rights and more. There is a need for informational training and resources to be made available for women and children with disabilities in the region. It is also integral that service providers offices are accessible to diverse people with disabilities.
- **SRHR and engagement of faith:** Calling for dialogue and sensitization of faith-based and religious groups throughout the Pacific towards an understanding of SRHR.
- **Decriminalization** of sex work, abortion and homosexuality in all countries of the Pacific;
- **The promotion of the rights of women with diverse sexuality and gender identity** – by ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all our peoples, without discrimination (Moana Declaration, 2013).

8. Backlash against gender equality, feminism and women's rights

Issue as we define it: There is global and local backlash against human rights and dignity, gender justice and women's human rights. There are attempts by right-wing and fundamentalist movements working for increased patriarchal control and denial of bodily autonomy. There is a profound shift in the current social, economic, ecological and climate landscape. The situation is dire as economic and non-economic loss and damage rises in the Pacific region and globally, but the political will is not yet enough to make the change we need to protect ourselves, other species and the living Planet. We will work to change this for ourselves and all the generations coming after us.

Backsliding on gender policies and on state commitments to gender equality, and new forms of feminist engagement with hostile governments and audiences, also raise new challenges to the literature on gender and politics.

Key messages

- The global backlash against human rights and gender equality is organised and powerful, and we need to work collaboratively, from inside and outside institutions, state structures and intergovernmental entities, to address and prevent erosion of women's human rights.
- Strong regional commitments and solidarity from Pacific Leaders, CROP agencies and UN Agencies is needed in addressing any backlash against gender equality and women's rights.
- Pacific feminists are clear that colonial power systems and structures operate within and through development and humanitarian aid apparatuses. Global Minority, Western and/or hegemonic States and institutions have proliferated a rhetoric of "localization" that simplifies a nuanced process of transformative power (re)distribution that runs the risk of depoliticization, increasing backlash and diluting agency of women in the Global Majority.

Existing commitments, movement work and additional language

Regional commitments

- Pacific Feminist Forum
 - 1st Pacific Feminist Forum [Charter of Pacific Feminist Principles for Pacific Feminists](#) as an endorsed, common set of collective principles to guide feminist organising and movement building. The

Charter is a living document intended to guide our analysis and practice and to be clear on our **non-negotiables as a feminist**

- 2nd Pacific Feminist Forum Charter Action Plan
- 3rd Pacific Feminist Forum Outcomes Document
- [2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration](#) (PLGED) noting the 2023 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration is currently undergoing revitalization
- [Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights](#) 2019-2030 (PPA)
- Outcomes and Recommendations from the [14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 7th meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women](#)

GBV/EVAWG

- [Warwick Principles: Best Practices for Engaging Men and Boys in Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in the Pacific](#)
- [2022 Regional Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Services Symposium Outcomes Document](#)
- PWNAVAW's [Regional DV/GBV Counseling Guidelines and Competencies](#) at the framework
- Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2025
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities