

# **NOW IS THE TIME: UNITED FOR EQUALITY**

**A Report on the First National  
Summit on ending Gender-Based  
Violence in Papua New Guinea**

**8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 | APEC House | Port Moresby**



# PREFACE

On November 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Coalition of Parliamentarians to End Gender-Based Violence hosted the First National Summit on Ending Gender-Based Violence in Papua New Guinea entitled “NOW IS THE TIME: UNITED FOR EQUALITY”.

More than 750 delegates joined the Members of Parliament including government, corporate, civil society, youth, diplomatic, religious and development leaders from across the country.

The event was livestreamed nation-wide. Issues and solutions were discussed, and a forward-seeking pathway agreed envisioning a safer, more prosperous and more equitable Papua New Guinea grounded in the Constitution and guiding Goals and Directives of the Nation.

Each of the five main sessions included Rapporteurs who summarized the sessions main recommendations. These recommendations were compiled and synthesized into an Outcome Statement read and signed by the Coalition members on November 10th, 2020 during the closing of the Summit.

The Outcome Statement was subsequently transposed into a Petition which is intended to be read in Parliament by the Chair of the newly-struck Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender-Based Violence.

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# BACKGROUND

The creation of the Coalition of Parliamentarians to end gender-based violence

On 24 August 2020, the Hon. Powes Parkop, Governor of the National Capital District (NCD), co-convened with the Hon. Allan Bird, Governor of East Sepik Province, the first ever High-Level Governors' Meeting on Gender-Based Violence at the National Parliament House. The meeting convened Governors, Ministers and policy-makers to identify and articulate strategies to address gender-based violence (GBV) and improve the status of women and girls in the country.

The historic meeting sought to disrupt the status quo and pivot towards a new vision for the country – one based on the lofty principles of the National Constitution and the possibility of a peaceful and prosperous country where everyone has equal opportunities and equal protection under the law.

Hon. Powes Parkop and Hon. Allan Bird were joined by Hon. Gary Juffa, Governor Oro Province, Hon. Tony Wouwou, Governor West Sepik Province, Hon. Bryan Kramer, Minister for Police, Hon. John Kaupa, Member for Moresby for North East and Dadi Toka Jnr., Chairman of the Motu Koitabu Assembly. They came together with a range of policy-makers, community representatives and delegates from the international community to discuss the national gender-based violence epidemic affecting women and families across the whole of Papua New Guinea. This epidemic, more than COVID-19 and more than any other public health or social issue, is undermining the social fabric and economic growth of the country. Gender-based violence severely impacts women's productive contributions and blights the futures of young girls and boys nation-wide.

With gender-based violence on the rise and a number of recent high-profile cases, there was consensus that Governors are uniquely positioned to take substantive strategic steps to address key policy failings, and to use their collective voice to demand change. The High-Level Governors Meeting offered a critical forum to facilitate dialogue and catalyze action. Participants reflected on their role in actioning forward-looking, provincial-level gender-based violence strategies.

The Parliamentarians discussed taking a strong national stand in support of gender equality and reflected on how they might establish PNG's Governors as drivers of political will to turn the tide on gender-based violence and thus, overall development in the country.

The High-Level Governors Meeting concluded with a commitment by all to work together and work harder to address gender-based violence. In a seminal move, Governors and Ministers together committed to the Resolution on Addressing Gender Based Violence, which included a commitment to formally create a "coalition of the willing."

In two successive follow-up meetings, more Members of Parliament signed the Resolution forming the first-ever Coalition of Parliamentarians to End Gender-Based Violence.

The Resolution as follows was signed by all twenty Parliamentarians.

1. To come together and collectively establish the first ever Coalition of Parliamentarians Against Gender-based Violence.
2. To pursue this agenda at all levels including to reform our own behaviour and that of the institutions we lead, and to be role models to our colleagues, associates, staff, families, and communities and hold each other accountable.
3. To support the implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence (2016-2025); and to properly resource it and ensure the National Gender-based Violence Secretariat is established and operational.

4. To adopt and implement strategies to seriously address GBV in our provinces and resource them to respond appropriately to the needs of survivors of GBV and work to prevent GBV from occurring in the first place.
5. Acknowledging the deteriorating situation on GBV in PNG, we call on our fellow parliamentarians and the executive government to bring in international assistance to support our law enforcement agencies as an emergency measure to combat GBV.
6. To share results on what is working and what is not, to be accountable and to inspire and encourage each other by reporting back in 2021 our results and progress, and thereafter on an annual basis.
7. To collectively join forces and lobby for the political will at the highest level.

## **The Members of the Coalition of Parliamentarians to End Gender-Based Violence**

**Hon. Charles Abel**  
Member for Alotau

**Hon Allan Bird**  
MP/Governor ESP

**Rt. Hon Sir Julius Chan**  
GCL GCMG KBE PC  
MP/Governor NIP

**Hon. Michael Dua**  
MP/Governor Simbu

**Hon. Grand Chief Sir Peter Ipatas**  
KBE GCL MP/Governor Enga Province

**Hon Gary Juffa**  
MP/Governor Oro Province

**Hon John Kaupa**  
MP for Port Moresby North East

**Hon Brian Kramer**  
Police Minister  
MP Madang Open

**Hon. Francis Maneke**  
MP/Governor WNBP  
Member for Talesea Open

**Hon. Richard Masere**  
V/Minister Assisting the PM

**Hon. Timothy Masiu**  
Minister for Communications

**Hon. Powes Parkop**  
MP/Governor NCD

**Hon William Powi**  
MP/Governor SHP

**Hon. John Rosso**  
Minister for Lands

**Hon Ginson Saonu**  
MP/Governor Morobe Province

**Hon. Minister Justin Tkatchenko**  
Minister Housing & Urban Development

**Hon Philip Undialu**  
MP/Governor Hela Province

**Hon. Jelta Wong**  
Minister of Health and HIV AIDS

# STATUS

## Gender-Based Violence and Equality in Papua New Guinea

The cost of gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea is high: physically, emotionally, and economically in terms of opportunities lost for women and children, their families, communities and the country as a whole. Living with constant violence, harassment and insecurity prevents women and children from leading the normal lives of free citizens and creates an untenable environment for the growth and development in the country.

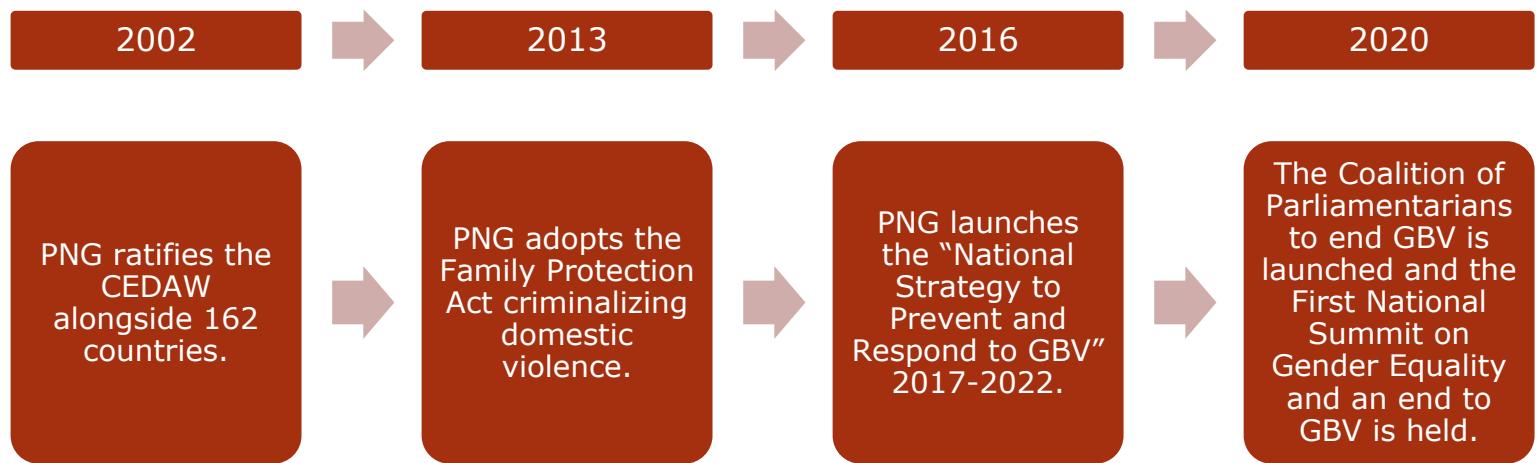
**“We cannot keep doing the same things and expect the different result!”**

**Hon. Allan Bird**, Governor, ESP

Gender-inequality is identified in extensive bodies of literature as the principle underlying cause of gender-based violence. Gender stereotypes that promote inequality contribute to the stigmatization of women who are perceived as less educated, in particular single mothers, and are therefore discouraged from leadership roles in communities.

For the few women who do hold leadership positions, their capacity to exercise this leadership is strongly influenced by gender and the political dynamics of the institutions in which they are operating.

## Timeline on GBV Action in Papua New Guinea



Yet gender equality is a principle advocated in the Constitution of Papua New Guinea and Goals and Directives. Highlighted in SDG5, gender-equality, and the achievements of gender-equality outcomes are critical to change Papua New Guinea's development targets, where it is important to note that in UNDP's 2018 ranking on gender-equality Papua New Guinea stood 161 out of 162 countries.

**"We have also emphasized the importance of women being able to make their full contribution to the welfare of the country, on an equal footing with men".<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The National Goals and Directive Principles of Papua New Guinea

## **Women’s Political Participation**

PNG is one of three countries world-wide without a woman in Parliament (alongside Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia). In PNG’s 45-year history, only seven women have been elected to Parliament. In the 2017 National Elections, no women were elected, despite 179 women candidates contesting. While this was the highest number of women to ever contest in elections, and they only amounted to 5% of the total 3,340 candidates who contested overall in the elections.

On average, in the past four elections, only one woman per 30 men contested a seat. Despite provisions in PNG’s Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates, parties consistently endorse more male candidates, as they are considered more likely to win. Thus, in the last three elections, more than 60% of the women who ran, ran as independents.

## **“Women’s representation on district and ward councils, has remained a challenge”<sup>2</sup>.**

CEDAW calls for member states to have at least 30% women representation in decision-making positions. Papua New Guinea has never come even close to that minimum target. PNG’s 1995 Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments 1995 (OLPLLG) provides for one nominated woman representative on each of the 20 Provincial Assemblies and each Urban Local Level Government (LLG); and, two

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2 Women in Leadership: Design Report June 2016 Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development: Pam Bourke, Angela Mandie-Filer and Dame Carol Kidu.p.5

representatives on each rural LLG, as well as district and ward councils. Ten per cent of all LLG members are meant to be women.

**“Obstacles ... which face women at present should be removed, and insofar as it is within the power of the Government to do so, the difficulties facing women who wish to involve themselves in the affairs of the nation should be reduced”<sup>3</sup>**

The challenges facing women’s equal and meaningful political participation and leadership are due to a variety of systemic, structural, and cultural factors. At the national level, few women contest elections, and those that do, tend to lack the support and resources required. During elections, ‘money politics’, the practice of vote buying and ‘community voting’, impact women’s ability to freely exercise their right to vote and participate in the electoral process.

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3 The National Goals and Directive Principles of Papua New Guinea

## National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) 2010-2015 recognized the value of women's leadership, both as a right and a development imperative, and included a recommendation on the establishment of 22 reserved seats. The Policy also recommended extending this measure across every level of Government, including throughout the public service and all government appointments at national and international levels. To date, this policy has not been passed by parliament.

### Data of Gender-Based Violence in Papua New Guinea<sup>4</sup>

54.3% of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 plus have been subjected to some form of intimate partner violence in the last year.

8% and 27.3% are married before the ages of 15 and 18 respectively.

Less than half (47.7%) 15 to 49-aged women made their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.

Married women 15 to 19 (70% of this age-group), and unmarried women aged 30 to 39 (65% of this age-group) are at the highest risk of experiencing violence.

Young, unemployed and men with alcohol issues in relationships are the highest risk of becoming perpetrators (89%).

While more women than men actually work in PNG, less than 12% of women are in wage-earning or salaried positions (compared to nearly 30% of the men). And that is up less than 2% in nearly 20 years.

A university degree almost triples a woman's chance of secure employment (22% vs 70%), however, it also increases her chance of experiencing relationship abuse from 55% to 76%.

Those who witness their parents' abuse are 3 times more likely to abuse themselves, and 70% of men in PNG have witnessed their fathers beat their mothers.

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4 National Statistical Office (NSO) [Papua New Guinea] and ICF, 2019. PNG Demographic and Health Survey 2016-18. Port Moresby, PNG and Rockville, Maryland, USA: NSO and ICF

# EQUALITY

## Session One: Leading the Change

Equality is not only a constitutional and human rights issue, it is an economic and national development imperative.

**“All activities of the state should be directed towards the personal liberation and fulfillment of every citizen, so that each man and woman will have the opportunity of improving himself or herself as a whole person and achieving integral human development.<sup>5</sup>”**

Inequality is an issue that affects us all, and is the root cause of gender-based violence. To achieve Papua New Guinea’s full potential, including

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5 The National Goals and Directive Principles of Papua New Guinea

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, all citizens must be able to fully enjoy the same rights, privileges and opportunities.

## **“Development is about empowering our women, girls, families and giving them financial and economic sustainability”**

**Hon. Allan Bird, MP/Governor ESP**

The lofty Goals and Directives of the Constitution of the country cannot be achieved when women, half of the people of the country, are marginalized, and girls and boys have not have equal access to opportunities. Political leaders must drive positive action within their jurisdictions and encourage others to do the same.

Session One opened with a discussion on the intention of the Constitution noting that the founding fathers (and mothers) of Papua New Guinea were very clear when drafting the Constitution. The second National Goals and Directive Principles address equality directly. Panelists noted that PNG has failed to honor these goals in the 45 years of its nationhood. The panelists stated that government at all levels must be guided by these goals and ensure that they are reached and leadership must be inclusive of women.

The panelists shared their views on women’s economic empowerment, stating that women must be empowered socially and economically to seize opportunities to lead and set the pace. Women must be supported, educated and trained: their voices must be heard and they must have fair representation in Parliament.

As the discussion turned to women in politics Governor Parkop pointed out that:

## **“Playing field is not equal!”**

**Hon. Powes Parkop**, Governor NCD

It was stated that PNG is a diversified country culturally and it will take time for equality to be achieved, but nevertheless, it was strongly agreed that women are needed in the political space, that “soft power” is critical to PNG’s overall development.

Hon. Juffa said that current leadership is giving gender-based violence the attention it deserves, but that:

## **“Safe environments must be created that include support for perpetrators.”**

Panelists stated this must be affected at the political level where a plan must be endorsed and driven by an organization dedicated to improving the status of women in the country.

Lessons were cited from the Motu Koitabu Assembly and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville election results as the conversation focused on relooking at reserve seats for women with sunset clause as an interim measure.

The Hon. Allan Bird continued that PNG has over prescribed laws that have not been implemented due to funding, enforcement and follow-up issues. The Governor shared his perspective that Provincial Governments must manage their finances and resources better, and

that the corrupt broken Government system must be recognized and collaboratively repaired.

The panel conversation turned to the importance of empowering women, girls and families through economic sustainability. It was agreed that Parliamentary Coalition must drive a fair and equitable chance for women, including reserve seats in Parliament.

## **“Violence is a character of low systems and values”**

**Hon. Powes Parkop, MP/Governor NCD**

Equality is about decentralizing national powers to provincial governments. In the East Sepik Province, Hon. Allan Bird shared that he has expanded internal taxes six times to generate revenue to support the economic empowerment of women and girls:

Justice mechanisms must be strengthened and resourced to protect women and to arrest, investigate, convict and sentence perpetrators of violence quickly. However, Dame Kidu said while laws are needed, they don't solve all the problems. She suggested that the Coalition of Parliamentarians is the way forward now.

## **“We are taking a journey to a democracy we want”**

**Hon. Gary Juffa, MP/Governor Oro**

The traditional and powerful role women have played in nation building and leadership was discussed and it was agreed that forward development must be inclusive of women.

**“Put women in charge of social and economic issues and give them the opportunity they have never been given before: equal access!”**

**Hon. Justin Tkatchenko**, Minister Housing & Urban Development

Panelists discussed the nature of violence in Papua New Guinea and it was noted that violence against women and girls is not part of Papuan culture, and that it is an abuse of system, and a result of rapid changes. Using Bride Price as an example, Dame Carol Kidu said:

**“Women are not a commodity. The essence of Bride Price was to protect women not sell them.”**

The Session concluded with agreement that the fundamentals are currently wrong in the country, and the result is social and economic loss for the country overall. A vision for the nation focused on equality will drive real, inclusive and lasting development, and social and economic empowerment for the benefit of the entire country.

## **The Outcome Statement for Session 1 Recommends**

1. The National Government adequately resourced a functioning Secretariat to operationalize the work of the Parliamentary Committee on gender-based violence to ensure its efforts and high-level attention and focus on addressing gender-based violence are sustained.
2. The National Government action and operationalize the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence (2016-2025).
3. The National Government pass reserved seats for women in the National Parliament by Act of Parliament.
4. The National Government adequately funds and resources the RPNG to effectively respond to cases of gender-based violence in a timely manner from arrest to investigation to prosecution.
5. The National and Provincial governments strengthen access to education, including Early Learning Centers, for all children to level the playing field for boys and girls.
6. The National Government decentralize national functions giving provincial autonomy to manage finances and resource for economic and financial empowerment of women
7. The National and Provincial Governments and well as development and corporate partners strengthen resources for parents and families to create healthy values and respect for gender equality in the home.

# WALK THE TALK

## Session Two: Institutional Change

Companies and institutions use codes of conduct to communicate internally and externally about both their specific company values and the minimum requirements they expect suppliers to uphold.

Gender equality in codes of conduct are a first step toward driving strategies that incorporates a focus on women; establishing gender-sensitive sourcing practices; and, securing buy-in and building the capacity of suppliers.

Women's rights and workplace-specific challenges of gender-based violence and inequality are often addressed in very limited ways, if at all. While recognizing that codes of conduct cannot eliminate deeply-rooted gender-based violence and inequality in the workplace, it is important to recognize that they can help significantly to frame the directing principles that drive human rights expectations throughout the supply chain.

Mainstream gender equality and addressing gender-based violence across all public-sector institutions at all levels (Wards, LLGs, District, Provincial) is important, the National Capital District has declared a model and is applying lessons learnt from fifteen private sector companies that are already implementing GBV workplace policies.

Public and private sector employers must create and enforce codes of conduct and anti-GBV contractual obligation clauses around employee and supply chain gender-based violence and behaviour.

Panelists opened by discussing the role women play in establishing a strong foundation for families and communities, and tribute was paid to those who had been raised by single parent mothers.

It was agreed that having women engaged in politics is critical to the future development of the country, and will change the dynamics of the nation in great ways. The Coalition of Parliamentarians must advocate for this in Parliament.

It was noted that private sector is leading efforts across the country to reduce the rates of violence and that gender-based violence deeply impacts corporate viability and investor confidence. Businesses such as BSP, Steamships, Hastings Deering, Digicel, Exxon Mobil, Nambawan Supa, Oil Search, Nambawan Trophy Haus Ltd, Black Swan all have codes of conduct to address GBV and broader community-wide programs to affect societal behaviour change.

NCDC is now also enacting a code of conduct and has committed to hold employees and contractors accountable for gender-based violence. NCDC has influence and power, over the city markets, education and health authorities and soon transportation. Panelists noted this kind of power all levels of government can step up and walk the talk. Waiting for the National Government will result in no action at all. The Coalition must take the challenge collectively and in their own electorates, and move forward; but at the same time continue to call for the National Government to fund the existing, approved National Strategy to Respond to GBV.

**“Positive change is inevitable!  
Imagine if the GBV Strategy was  
effectively implemented all the  
Provincial Administrators. We are  
united.”** **Patricia Mesa**, DCM Corporate Affairs, NCDC

The GESI Policy addresses: sexual harassment; discrimination of all forms including GBV; and, domestic violence.

GESI Managers are trained to implement GESI and defend the human rights of public servants. In addition, the managers help supervisors to ensure both male and female staff who face domestic violence are able to access the relevant services. These policies are embedded in Public Services Management Act.

### **The Outcome Statement for Session 2 Recommends**

1. Public and private sector employers support the needs of employee survivors of gender-based violence.
2. Public and private sector employers only contract with third parties who have and enforce a pro-equality and anti-GBV codes of conduct.
3. All public and private employers offer resource counselling and therapeutic activities for staff survivors and perpetrators to support their change process.
4. Private sector demands the National Government to resource the National GBV strategy.
5. Access to information on GBV services for the public, with targeted approaches for specific groups such as people living with disability, people living with HIV, LGBTQI, sex workers, the elderly and children, is made easily accessible
6. Education and awareness: Department of Education needs to include healthy relationships in the school curriculum and in the communities.

# RESPONSE

## Session Three A: Building Better Referral Pathway Services

The acknowledgement that Violence against women and children is a global public health and human rights issue that violates the very principles of gender equality was a central theme of Session Three A. Studies were cited showing that over 67% of women in PNG suffer from intimate partner violence, even 100 % in some parts of the Highlands.

Panelist stated that women are been beaten during pregnancy (86%) and 60% of men have boasted about participating in gang rapes. Another study revealed that, more than half of all sexual violence cases referred to medical clinics in Port Moresby and Tari are committed against children. Speakers underlined that statistics are not needed to prove PNG has a humanitarian crisis at hand. Gender-Based Violence is prevalent across all levels of PNG society, and women and children, continue to withstand some of the most extreme levels of violence globally, despite successive government promises of justice.

Legal expert speakers pointed out here that PNG has made great strides as a country in developing policy and legal frameworks for ending violence against women and children. For instance, the Family Protection Act which came into effect in 2014 as a legislative response to domestic violence, the 2009 Lukautim Pikinini Act addressing child protection issues and the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2014, aimed at protecting women accused of sorcery.

Further, the National Government GESI policy aims to promote gender equity and social inclusive practices across the National Public Service. Implementation and enforcement of these legal and policy frameworks for the protection and safety of women and children remains a big challenge for GBV service providers. Almost all speakers highlighted that

existing mechanisms to link survivors of violence to supportive and competent systems of care, (medical, mental health and psychosocial, police, legal and justice) are deeply fragmented.

In Papua New Guinea, gender-based violence (GBV) affects the productivity, profitability and performance of businesses, with 94 percent of employers saying their staff have likely experienced GBV. Violence affects women at home and at work. The impacts on the workplace are many and varied: the threat of violence at work increases liabilities, creates occupational safety and health risks; and, reduces productivity by affecting the performance of survivors and perpetrators, as well as bystanders. It also contributes to turnover and hinders career progression.

By introducing the National Public Service Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy, the Government acknowledged its leadership role and responsibility for policy development and, as a major employer, its ability to positively influence change in our workplaces and communities. The National Public Service GESI Policy assists National Public Service agencies, officers and employees to embrace the GESI principles of respect, equity and diversity. It allows agencies to introduce inclusion and equity initiatives in the workplace and into the delivery of goods and services for the combined benefit and prosperity of all citizens.

For the private sector, the expenses of gender-based violence adds up, with direct costs of GBV adding three percent to nine percent to total payroll expenses and indirect costs adding another 45 percent. To address this and other gender-related challenges, a group of companies from Papua New are implementing GBV policies and working jointly to change public perceptions, and have been successful in supporting their employees and reducing the costs of GBV.

Following Jenelyn Kennedy's murder, the business community in PNG organized vigils, and shared messages on social media, pledging commitments and signing online petitions.

Bank South Pacific (BSP) launched its #BlackThursdays campaign to spread awareness of family, sexual and gender-based violence. As well, in 2019, BSP implemented its Group Family and Sexual Violence Policy but has also been key in the establishment of Bel Isi PNG, the private sector's first women's refugee and case management center.

Kumul Petroleum has also joined #blackthursdays. And many other companies, including Oil Search, have been involved with Business Council for Women and have developed initiatives against gender-based violence. Ok Tedi Mining (OTML), for example, supported and promoted programs that empower women. Earlier this year, Pacific Towing, a division of the Steamships Group, implemented Gender Smart Safety, a workplace program developed by the Business Council For Women, and also subscribed to Bel Isi PNG.

Problems with the implementation of laws and the entire justice system for survivors persist: a high proportion of domestic violence cases get withdrawn; women and children face abusive responses from the police and from the public; and, overall conviction rates remain unacceptably low. Enforcement remains a critical issue. Safe protective private and public environments are missing for most women and children. Further, safe houses struggle. The majority are insufficiently funded and most funding comes from donors.

Further the limited availability of social welfare workforce countrywide is deeply limited challenging the access of women and children who have experienced or are at risk of violence, to the services they need and deserve. It is important that efforts are implemented at provincial levels, in order to bring services closer to the people most in need.

The police are insufficient and ill-trained to deal with the level and extent of violence across the communities whether in cities or rural and remote areas, let alone intervene in domestic disputes in a timely and appropriate manner. Police often find themselves in the role of adjudicator without expertise or capacity to enforce.

Health services for survivors of GBV are critically underfunded and inconsistent across the country. Challenges in the referral pathway often delay or prevent survivors from accessing lifesaving health services within a time-sensitive window for care.

The panelists identified the following key issues with the current GBV referral pathway:

1. The lack of prosecution of violent perpetrators. For example, Leniata Kepari was murdered in front of hundreds of witnesses in 2013, and although 80 men were arrested, seven years later, none have been prosecuted.
2. Police are under-resourced with ratio of 1 police officer to 2000 citizens in most of the country, less in some areas, making it almost impossible to provide rapid response, especially with sorcery related violence.
3. Despite the high number of GBV cases presented to court, over 50 % are struck because of failure of police to provide evidence, survivors lack of court process understanding or compensation.
4. There are no clear pathways for Child Protection under the Lukautim Pikinini Act despite its existence for the last decade.
5. Police Family Sexual Violence Units are underfunded and, in some cases, deal with over 30 cases a day.
6. Ninety per cent of survivors drop their cases because their partners are the family bread winners and they have no other means of support.
7. Frontline GBV service providers are not safe or secure when justice systems are compromised by the Wantok system, through bribery and abuse of authority.
8. There is a lack of GBV essential services and a functional referral pathway at all levels. For example, safe environments are not always available for survivors of violence and there are a limited number of safe houses, most funded by donors.
9. Government agencies providing GBV essential services and supporting the referral pathways are underfunded.

The outcome of the Response Session on the Referral Pathway recognized the commitment of the Coalition members to address GBV and advocate for gender equality as leaders of the nation. The efforts of government agencies working with limited or no resources to ensure there is continuum of quality care and support for GBV survivors, was also acknowledged. It was argued that vital services for survivors within the referral pathways are almost nonexistent; and if available; under resourced.

For survivors, a coordinated response results in increased safety, by placing them at the center of any intervention or institutional response; and, gives survivors access to informed and skilled practitioners who share knowledge in a dedicated, supportive environment. In addition, co-locating services and referral networks helps serve the multiple survivor needs. Information sharing among agencies can reduce the number of times survivors are asked to tell their stories, thus reducing re-traumatization. Integrated care models mean that survivors' psychosocial, sexual and other health needs are more likely to be addressed holistically.

In addition, women's rights to financial and social autonomy, which can reduce their risk of experiencing future abuse and improve their capacity for escaping after it occurs, can be integrated into coordinated responses to violence against women and girls.

A coordinated response benefits the institutions and agencies that respond to violence against women and makes them more effective. By complying with minimum standards partner agencies can deliver more consistent responses. Clarity about roles and responsibilities mean that each sector can excel in its area of expertise, and each professional's work is complemented by that of other agencies and professionals.

Coordination with other sectors can enhance the ability of the criminal justice system to hold perpetrators accountable. Shared protocols ensure clear and transparent communication and accountability

mechanisms among agencies. Coordination means consistent messages and responses can be given to survivors, perpetrators and communities.

As well, shared data systems can support individual case management, such as ensuring an appropriate response to the results of on-going risk assessment, and can serve as a source of information for monitoring and evaluating programs.

The establishment of a national GBV database is a critical step to ensuring the standardized, safe and ethical management of GBV information collected through service provision. The principles of informed consent, confidentiality and safety must sit at the center of this work. While the collection, analysis and sharing of GBV data is critical to improving support and advocating against this violence, it must not be done at the expense of survivors' themselves. The collection of administrative-level data must be tied to service provision and ethically balance the risk versus benefits of collecting such information.

**Technical:** Technical challenges related to the functionality and use of ICT systems hamper the establishment of an effective database. This includes unreliable internet, incorrect use of tablets, limited understanding of database systems and a lack of ongoing coaching and close supervision for correct use. Upgrades in equipment and coverage coupled with intensive training, coaching under structured supervision would help to ameliorate these challenges.

**Capacity:** Establishing and maintaining a database is a resource intensive initiative. Up until now, staff have struggled to manage data entry with their other existing responsibilities. A lack of clarity around roles in the referral pathway has also contributed to challenges in identifying who is responsible for what and allocating adequate resourcing accordingly. Dedicated data staff would help address the staffing capacity shortfall as well as a review and clarification of roles and responsibilities in the referral pathway.

**Coordination and collaboration:** Agencies on the referral pathway are working in isolation. Resistance to entering and sharing data is noted. As service providers don't have access to their own data on the system, it is often unclear the benefits of sharing data. High level agreement on data collection, protection and information sharing is needed to support service providers move forward with a shared, functional database.

Panelists agreed that GBV is a major obstacle to PNG's development.

**"the Government needs to invest where it matters and that is to address the GBV epidemic that is destroying our nation."**

**Dr. Eric Kwa**, Secretary, Department of Justice

The National Government must provide leadership on ending all forms of discrimination against women and children. It was underlined that women make over 55% of PNG's population and deserve the right to live free of violence. Advocating for tougher penalties for perpetrators of violence and everyone holding men accountable for their behaviors within their areas of authority is key. A call out was made to all leaders to walk the talk and ensure women and children are supported throughout Papua New Guinea to achieve their full potentials.

### **The Outcome Statement for Session 3A Recommends**

1. The PNG National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence 2016-2025, is a colorful government strategy that

- is collecting dust and needs funding for effective coordination of the GBV response.
2. Funds are allocated by the National Government to GBV service providers providing essential services (both public and private).
  3. Safety and Security Services (e.g. Police Hotline for reporting GBV cases).
  4. Medical and Psychological Care Services (e.g. supporting or building Family Support Centers within hospitals throughout the country and allocating social workers to support referrals /case management).
  5. Social Protection Services (e.g. Build safe houses or extend the work of organizations like City Mission to scale out to the provinces working with survivors and youths, especially young men).
  6. Investigative Services (e.g. Resource the 39 Police Family Sexual Violence Unit with trained police personals, even if it means increasing manpower to support prosecution of perpetrators of violence).
  7. Legal Justice Services (E.g. Support the 8000 village Court officials to perform community policing functions /Prosecution).
  8. Child Protection Services (e.g. funding a social worker /counselor to support victims of child abuse cases).
  9. Community Care Service (e.g. safe houses, or funding Community Based Women's Organization).

# PREVENTION

## Session Three B: Strategies that Engage Men and Boys as Allies and Partners

Old attitudes are dying hard: and the attitudes of many Papua New Guineans towards gender-based violence in society are deeply disturbing. These include the notion that it is justified for men to beat women; that women may provoke such behavior because of their dress and conduct; and that men feel oppressed by a recent push for women's rights.

Men's violence against women is an expression of gendered power. That is, the power that men, individually and collectively, have over women. The panelists of session two stated that while many retain this view of women and girls, many also do not; and, that while changing norms may be close to impossible, changing behaviour is not need to support and advocate for prevention programs that target men and boys. Programs must support men to hold themselves and each other accountable to sharing power equally and non-violent in their relationships, families, communities and society at large. Men can be positive role models, and bystanders and cultural change activists. As advocates for gender equality in all spheres and allies of women, men can make and hold space for women's equal participation, representation and rights.

Preventative actions focused on promoting equal and respectful relationships between men and women and boys and girls; non-violent norms and reducing the effects of prior exposure to violence; and, improving access to resources, are needed to step away from violence.

The speakers discussed how male advocacy at a national level was based on regional programs focused on the experiences of women and teaching men to support women. The underlying principle being that

women are the ones experiencing violence, and that men should not shy away from the violence, but rather men need to recognize this in their efforts to address GBV.

Athletics and sports were highlighted as a prevention tool. Sports offer an alternative to violent actions and releases emotions and stress in a positive way. The Active City Development Program was highlighted as an example of this type of programming targeting marginalized and disenfranchised youth and engaging them in positive healthy activities that benefit their lives. It was noted that when people feel good, they act good.

## **“Violence is a choice. Men are best placed to share this message with other men.”**

**Mrs. Serena Sasingian**, CEO Digicel Foundation

Digicel’s Men of Honor campaign calls attention to diversity and clear role models. It has focused on men striving to achieve social political and economic change, and to celebrate men who seek to use their power and privilege for good. Men of Honour fosters positive male power and focuses on equality and women’s safety.

He stated his concern about an over-reliance on new policy development versus funding the policies that already exist.

The Hon. Charles Abel shared that the Coalition members convened the Summit to learn and to listen to people who have been working in this space for years. On behalf of the men of PNG, he said:

# **“To the women of PNG, I apologize for our violence against you.”**

**Hon. Charles Abel, MP Alatau**

The Coalition leader also stated that population control and family planning was extremely important; that women and girls need the right to decide how many children they have, when and with whom. Making family planning simple and available is an immediate solution to address a multitude of risk factors.

Further, once again, Reserved seats in Parliament for women were raised as an important step in leveling the political playing field.

Citing the widespread use of different forms of violence, the Hon. Member for Alatau stated that there is a:

# **“General glorification of violence and that gender-based violence is a manifestation of men abusing their power over women, and women’s position as subservient.”**

**Hon. Charles Abel, MP Alatau**

Coalition Member the Hon. John Kaupa stated that MPs need to push for further financial commitments and at the same time support women to be financially independent so they can sustain themselves and their children should violence be experienced. He stated that unemployment exacerbates violence in homes and this needs to be addressed particularly in marginalized communities.

**“We cannot wait for new government funding to be committed. We must commit our own funds in our electorates and push for further financial commitments at the same time.”**

**Hon. John Kaupa, MP NW NCD**

And once again the issue of properly funding the police force was raised.

The discussion ensued with the Hon. Gary Juffa, MP/Governor Oro speaking about the practical use of violence that was used in Papua New Guinea as it gained nation-state, and called attention to the rapid changes in the social landscape of PNG and its influences on the widespread use of violence to solve problems.

**“We need to engage men and boys as part of the solution rather than excluding them. Change on an individual and societal level does happen and is possible.”**

**Hon. Gary Juffa, MP/Governor Oro**

The panelists continued to discuss the important role of men and boys in addressing gender-based violence and gender-inequality. The primary influences of family and school were highlighted and it was agreed that focusing on working with young people in the school was critical to change power imbalances, violent communication and foster healthy, respectful relationships.

It was highlighted by all the panelists that inequality is seen every day and that discriminatory gender roles need to be challenged. Divisions of domestic labor are some of the most obvious imbalances. It was also noted that there is a need to maintain the aspects of traditional community and the social and protection mechanisms that benefit women.

One commentator suggested that men need to live equality in their daily decisions and behaviors, and that they also need to:

**“Acknowledge their violence and say sorry. They need to commit to changing in their lives and relationships. This includes intervening to address men’s discrimination and violence.”**

**Mr. Dickson Kiragi,**

The session discussion resulted in the following recommendations:

1. Develop a population policy which grants women the right to choose how many children and when and with whom they have them. Make family planning simple and available - this immediate addressed multiple risk factors.
2. Enact regional reserve seats for women - three or four terms, only for women, and they compete for these seats amongst themselves.
3. Completely overhaul the education and teaching system and curriculum, we need respectful relationships in schools. We need to support teachers to know how to respond to the needs of children in their class.
4. Commit as men and as delegates of the Summit, whether you are a Coalition member or a youth to not to perpetrate gender-based violence ourselves. If we know about or see it, we report it.

5. Education regarding relationship management, conflict resolution, gender equality and the rights of all citizens, especially of young men. Need to mainstream gender into the education system, knowing about gender dynamics,
6. Openly talk about sex, how parents are going to respond to their children when they are doing wrong.

### **The Outcome Statement for Session 3B Recommends**

1. The Government invests financial and human resources in positive social norm change programming and services to mitigate the risks that result in violence. Including tailored interventions that engage men and boys, and recognize that men and boys have their own experiences of violence, which perpetuate the cycle of violence.
2. Education is central to promoting positive social norm change and reducing the risks that lead to high rates of GBV. The Government must invest immediately in the education system. This includes:
  - a. Mainstreaming curriculum that examines discriminatory gender norms and roles, fosters healthy, non-violent relationships and positive sexual and reproductive health, especially amongst boys and young men.
  - b. Up-skilling support for teachers to better recognize and respond to the needs of children and youth, including those experiencing or perpetrating violence.
  - c. Uninterrupted education opportunities for all students up until year 12. Ensure opportunities for youth to pursue non-traditional education, such as technical and vocational continued learning.
  - d. Link education to employment opportunities and job-market realities.
3. The Government strengthens and adequately fund the judicial system to enforce existing legislation and where necessary, revise existing laws and introduce new laws that outlaw practices such

as compensation and maintain confidentiality of all parties. Raise awareness and information on existing legislation on violence so everyone knows their rights and understands the legal consequences of their actions.

4. The Government ensures the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls by investing in accessible, cheap family planning for all. Protect and promote women's right to decide if and how many children they have, and when and with whom they have them.
5. The Government, private sector and development partners collectively invest in support for women's empowerment including their financial independence through income earning and employment opportunities.
6. The Government, private sector and development partners collectively invest programs for youth and children that foster skills in self-reflection, emotional intelligence and to make positive decisions in their life.
7. The Government, private sector and development partners collectively invest in women to participate in and contribute to decision-making at all levels. Government reserve seats for women in parliament with a maximum limit of three to four terms must be enacted with a competitive democratic process.

# DATA

## Session Four: Case Management System

Information on gender-based violence cases, perpetrators and survivors; and on the processes and procedures involved in the case management that the survivors need to follow to proceed with a court application is not readily available or shared. In Papua New Guinea there is a lack of access to information by ordinary women let alone vulnerable groups. Very little information is available in simplified form, in predominant languages, and in formats easily accessible to the public.

Coordination between government and civil society efforts remains the biggest challenge in ensuring both prevention of further abuse by perpetrators; all relevant stakeholders are fully aware of gender-based violence case information; and survivors are fully aware of their rights, the laws and the processes for justice: Overall approaches and various other key government initiatives reflect limited coordination across essential services' sectors and precisely at a time when the problem is mounting, resources are shrinking. Greater synergies need to be achieved.

Coordinated systems can have a greater impact in responding to violence, as well as greater efficiencies, than agencies working in isolation.

The Session began with the Hon. Francis Maneke discussing the importance of the “equality agenda” as the way forward for PNG. He stated that each province needs to embrace this agenda and align their budgets and plans with a national agenda on an end to gender-based violence and a gender-equal future. The Honourable Governor stated that women currently suppress women, and that it must be made clear that women have power and that they should be respected.

The theme of economic independence and empowerment, as well as the importance of women in politics and securing reserve seats for women in Parliament were raised again.

Equipping service providers with the necessary skills to address the level of GBV was cited as critical. In addition, understanding and finding ways to support the emotional and psychological abuse experienced was deemed a priority, as was collaboration and coordination amongst service providers, and having access to accurate data. Guiding protocols at all levels of service delivery was suggested as one way to ensure consistent and high-quality service is provided to survivors.

A mobile phone application system to collect case data was suggested as one modality through which the National Office of Child and Family Services, the agency that manages all case data, could collect critical information and link it all together. Telecommunication service providers could play a key role in supporting this work.

The database system should be structured so that survivors do not need to repeat their statements multiple times, to avoid secondary trauma. It was also suggested that lessons could be learned from the four established Secretariats in NCD, Morobe, Milne Bay and East New Britain. These secretariats were established to ensure effective coordination and understanding what has and has not worked would benefit other provinces.

## **“Now is the time to make the change.”**

**Hon. Timothy Masiu**

## **The Outcome Statement for Session 4 Recommends**

1. The Government resources the National GBV Strategy 2016-2025 so it can be implemented.
2. A central database system is established to facilitate cross sector coordination and reduce survivor re-trauma.
3. Policy and legal frameworks are established to protect data and the confidentiality of survivors of violence.
4. Human rights defenders are included in district and provincial budget planning and funding.
5. A one-stop-shop for GBV survivors is created and funded including provincial gender-based violence secretariats.
6. Flexible long-term funding for community development is established, particularly for the provincial centers with accountability and transparency measures embedded.
7. Family Support Centers throughout the country are resourced so they are fully equipped and functioning
8. Gender-based violence units are resourced. Currently the FSVU structure is standalone. This needs to be broadened to include all forms of gender-based violence and be endorsed by NEC to receive its own funding.
9. Safe houses are resourced especially in the rural settings. Policy and legal frameworks must be established to protect and guide the operations of safe houses.
10. Young people are empowered and upskilled to carry this work forward.
11. NGO's and Faith Based Organizations addressing GBV receive long-term provincial and district funding.
12. All government budgeting and planning processes, to include women, girls, children, disability and other vulnerable groups.

# YOUTH

## Youth Side Event: The Leaders of Today

Roughly 20% of the Papua New Guinean population is aged 15 to 24, and an estimated 50% are under the age of 30.

Within this age group, violence against women and girls has reached epidemic proportions. Both young women and men are at highest risk of both experiencing and becoming perpetrators of gender-based violence.

The increase in youth gender-based violence is grounded in issues of a changing patrilineal society and enforcing gender expectations of power and family.

**“Just like the Bird of Paradise, Papua New Guinea cannot fly with one wing.”**

**Dame Carol Kidu**

Popular culture in the country and generally around the world idolizes hyper-masculinity and supports male power. Sexual Violence theory underlines that a loss of male-power results in humiliation, spurns anger and further aggression to regain power<sup>6</sup>. Thus, as women become more educated and seek economic independence across the country: and as

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<sup>6</sup> Zarkov, D. 2001, “The Body of the Other Man: Sexual Violence and the Construction of Masculinity, Sexuality and Ethnicity in Croatian Media”, in C. Moser and F. Clark (eds)

more young men are unemployed and feel their power is taken away, the levels of violence are accelerated.

Married women 15 to 19 (70% of this age-group), and unmarried women aged 30 to 39 (65% of this age-group) are at the highest risk of experiencing violence. Young, unemployed and men with alcohol issues in relationships are the highest risk of becoming perpetrators (89%). Most men (54%) and women (60%) in NCD believe men have a right to beat their wives<sup>7</sup>.

Exacerbating this, the World Bank states that young people comprise a large part of the urban poor<sup>8</sup>. Further, research by the International Labour Organization (ILO) tells us that unemployment amongst 15 to 24-year-olds in the country, plunged between 1990 and 2000 from 60% to 35% for young women, and 55% to 33% for young men<sup>9</sup>, thereby further causing stress in young relationships.

Barriers to quality employment are high for youths lacking skills, networks and information on good jobs. For young women with childcare responsibilities or young people who live far from opportunities, these barriers can be insurmountable. Providing young people with employable skills and opportunities becomes an important antecedent to lifting the country more broadly, and offering young women specifically, financial independence.

These unemployed youths, both girls and boys, sit squarely in the exact group we see as highest rates of violence and criminal activity

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<sup>7</sup> National Statistical Office (NSO) [Papua New Guinea] and ICF. 2019. Papua New Guinea Demographic and Health Survey 2016-18. Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: NSO and ICF

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/worldbank\\_hci/index.html](https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/worldbank_hci/index.html)

<sup>9</sup> NSO 2010. 2009-2010 Papua New Guinea HIES: Summary Tables. International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2016), Women at Work – Trends, Geneva: ILO NSO 2013, Jones and McGavin 2015.

perpetrated and experienced. As such, as this group grows, and also ages, we can anticipate an increase in GBV unless significant measures are taken to intervene and break the cycle.

The Summit's Youth Side Event convened youth representatives from 13 Provinces: Morobe, Milne Bay, East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Western Highlands, East New Britain, Chimbu, Hela, Southern Highlands, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Jiwaka, Enga and the National Capital District to voice their concerns on equality.

The youth delegates upheld the seven Guiding Principles of the Declaration of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea National Constitution 1974, and understood the fundamental guidelines that support standing as key partners, contributing to nation building, with a special focus on eradicating ALL forms of violence in society.

The youths acknowledge existing strategies and frameworks to drive the movement for equality at all levels and with all actors: individuals, communities, institutions and national leaders who use their influence and dedicate their time, towards fighting for equality, peace and justice.

**Youth noted that:**

Rapid changes in PNG society and increasing inequality and dislocation has exacerbated violence. Youth while saying attention is given to preserving their identity little is done to ensure this also addresses the root causes of violence; inequality. The Youth recognized the importance of youth learning from the values and practices of equality from the past, to bring them forward to today, and the critical role and responsibilities of the youth in bringing change.

Challenges of continued access to education and family support in enabling girls and young women to change and be safe and supported when they step up were noted.

The Wisdom of older generation of leaders was considered vital to younger activists in driving the agenda of equality through their

influence, continued support for young voices and forging spaces for the youth to participate.

The cycle of violence against children is inherited into adulthood and including in intimate partner relationships. This is clearly seen in the statistics which indicate that men who witness their mother abused by their father are three times more likely to become abusers themselves.

The role of activism has transformed as violence has increasingly been captured by modern technology increasing awareness, reporting and the documentation of violence via social media, social media platforms and mainstream media where young people are actively engaged.

The role of technology provides a means for youth to raise their voices, and create space for themselves. However, it was noted by youth delegate that action needs to happen offline to change reality: social media alone is insufficient. There is also a need to ensure young people have access to accurate information and education about their rights, what violence enfades, redefined masculinity, how to break gender stereotypes and the setbacks caused by violence in society.

True government accountability needs political leaders, civil services centers and policy makers to strategize on sustainable programs that respond to gender-based violence, and invest in targeted, youth-tailored programmes

The importance of support children to set boundaries and foster empathy for others was noted. Much work is needed related to the early detection and prevention of violence, starting with children knowing what a respectful relationship is and identifying safe spaces. Teachers in school need to be able to recognize and respond to children in their classes and under their preview who are experiencing violence.

Young people need to know the laws that protect them while understanding that they can play a role in changing the status quo by advocating Members of Parliament to lobby for practical interventions, in the National Government.

There is a clear need for young men and women to be informed about the rights and the principles of equality so they can make well informed, respectful choices regarding sexual and intimate relationships.

There is need for children's access to technology to be overseen by also the parents who understand that children today have access to information and experiences related to sex more so than in the past. Parents need to be open and prepared to address this, to reduce the risk of children experiencing harm and violence as they seek to explore.

The consistent engagement of young people in the cyber space. This opens up the risk of online/technology facilitated violence. The solution to protecting children in today's cyber environment comes down to the home and parenting. Fostering values, morals, respect, empathy and critical thinking in children so they are equipped to use technology for the right purposes and to protect themselves from its worst aspects.

The role of the National Youth Development Authority and its mandate to connect and ensure a coordinated and inclusive entry point for engaging young people was recognized.

The special case of youth issues and the governing structures of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are quite different from Papua New Guinea. Their youth representatives at the Summit supported the youth of Papua New Guinea in these recommendations.

Human rights and equality know no boundaries of religion, political opinion, race, colour, sex, gender, caste and status in society. Violence affects everyone and the time to act is now.

### **The Outcome Statement for Youth Side Event Recommends**

1. Government to commit funds to support effective programs that seek to address violence and achieve equality. While there is a host of quality development programs, they are not sustainable because government does not support these in the long-term.

2. Amend the District Development Authority (DDA) 2014 to include provisions for youth inclusion in rural and urban governance structures of decision making at the DDA Board and the PEC which sets the structure for the youth council networks.
3. The GBV Strategy needs to be implemented and monitored. Government needs to commit financial and human resources for the roll-out of the National and Provincial GBV Strategies. This needs to be tracked by a commitment to specific results in the immediate, medium and long-term timeline.
4. To provide specialized services for youth and children as an immediate priority. This requires uniform standards in all universities, vocational and primary and high schools to ensure safety of youth and children; schools need to be safe spaces for both youth and children. Teachers need to be supported to be able to recognize and respond to the needs of youth and children that are experiencing violence. The gaps in implementation of laws must be adhered specialized services for children developed, resourced and implemented.
5. To be held accountable to measurable commitments for the implementation of the GBV Strategies and creating an enabling environment for youths.
6. Corporate social responsibility practices and programmes of the private sector must align to the GBV response initiatives.
7. Revisit Welfare and Social Services to ensure they are appropriately and adequately resourcing and financing Social Workers, Mental Health Clinics and Rehabilitation Programmes.
8. Organizations must have Social Work services and embedded work place guidelines and codes of practice when dealing with youths.
9. Review education curriculum to ensure it is integrated and value-based; and includes the civic education for youth to learn about the constitution and their human rights. Teachers training and education service delivery, will be critical to ensure strong outcomes are achieved.

10. Establish consistent services and infrastructure for social services in the deep and inner rural areas (focus).
11. Fund and resource provincial gender-based violence units (Current FSVU) to have a RR within eight to twenty-four hours and Standard Operating Procedures.
12. In addition, community development organizations must revisit FSVAC funding and be sensitive to political interference as well as create a space for youth representation on the FSVAC Board to monitor evaluate and accountability.
13. Specific services for youth perpetrators need to be examined such as:
  - a. Juvenile Justice centers in rural areas, and programs infrastructure and abuse in prison.
  - b. Halfway house and rehabilitation, pathways to educated youth volunteers for change.
  - c. Adapted programs in urban areas to the rural area context and share best practices.
  - d. Youth desks in each province and youth hubs
14. Revisit our values of indigenous wisdom to drive peace building in societies, known as the PNG Ways.
15. Churches must understand their inclusive development is not biased and should accept all youth regardless of their faith.

***That Youth:***

1. Continue the conversation of equality and lead with influence.
2. Capitalize on the existing a network of youth volunteers and reach out to other youth organizations to invest their time and effort to make equality a reality. Actively contribute to positive change through volunteerism and different levels of engagement and environment and commit to become the change they want to see.
3. Consult, raise awareness and call upon youth to develop specific demands and asks from a local through to national level to push for change.

4. Use international treaties that the government has signed to hold them accountable. These are legally binding documents that require us to change our national laws to comply. Youth continue to inform themselves in order to hold Government account, and to lobby and advocacy Government to follow these obligations.
5. Hold the Coalition accountable to follow up and follow through on this outcome statement.

### **Conclusion**

Young people are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today and architects of tomorrow. Youth voices should neither be tokenized nor politicized.

Youth understand their responsibility as partners for development and believe in the value of intergenerational dialogues with leaders so that they are not to be spoken to but to be heard as well. And to conclude with the statement:

**“We are on our Lakatoi boat  
as a nation, on a voyage to  
achieve equality. Our older  
generation navigates the  
Southern Cross with wisdom  
while young people paddle  
with energy. When the**

**winds blow and the currents  
swirl, we do not fight each  
other but communicate and  
adjust our sail”**

David Aoneka Lawrence Rupa

# **OUTCOME STATEMENT**

## **COALITION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

We, the members of the Coalition of Parliamentarians Committed to end gender-based violence have a vision of a Papua New Guinea where all women and girls can fully participate in the political, economic, cultural, and social life with all the rights and privileges bestowed upon them as citizens of our great nation.

We recognize that women have been the pillars of our nation since ancient times. They are the wealth creators, maintain social cohesion and are held in high regard in our communities. In the matrilineal areas of our country, women are the property owners. This power and the role of women must be recognized and harnessed for the greater progress of our country: extending their powerful role into all sectors including politics. Even our patrilineal heritage recognizes women as the backbone of our society.

We know that to address gender-based violence, we must address gender equality, and men and boys must learn to stand beside women and girls as allies and partners. This is not a new agenda or paradigm. This notion of women as leaders and pillars of our country is imbedded in our culture and traditions, as well as in our Constitution and national goals and guiding principles.

Removing the barriers that prevent women and girls from achieving their potential and living their dreams will remove the same barriers that are holding our nation back from succeeding on the global stage. With women and girls free of the shackles that now bind them, our nation will be unstoppable.

We know that women's inequality is an issue that affects us all. This is not only a human rights issue, it is an economic imperative. We cannot reach our full potential as a country, when half of our people are marginalized and denied full inclusion and participation. We know that the full inclusion of women boosts our economy, increases our productivity, and reduces child poverty.

We know that addressing women's equity requires all social agents – individuals, organizations and all levels of government – to take intentional steps towards this goal. Our Coalition is committed to take positive action within our jurisdictions and encourage others to do the same.

We know that access to basic socioeconomic supports is a crucial step for increasing women's safety, security, well-being, independence and rights and freedoms. Access to stable housing, secure employment, infrastructure like streetlights, safe markets and easily accessed water and sanitation, and financial resources, greatly contribute to whether or not a woman is able to fully participate in society and successfully leave situations of violence and vulnerability.

We aim to make our jurisdictions gold-standards in gender-equality and ending gender-based violence, starting with ourselves, and will use our power, voice and influence to disrupt and demand change. We look to a new adage: —we do not want the power to accept what we cannot change: instead we embrace our power to change what we cannot accept.

We know that those with education are offered the greatest chance to not just succeed personally, but also to succeed for our country, and

that this is critical for our women and girls to advance and gain independence.

We aim to ensure that there are pathways to support our young people to achieve their dreams and to find the support to grow healthy violence-free relationships. We invite the private sector to join us. We will seek to direct our attention on young people in relationships who are struggling.

We know that women and girls need to be able to claim the rights of their own bodies. To decide when and where and with whom they plan their families. We know that the consent to sexual activities must lie with both parties, and for women and girls to have access to clear information, services and the necessary tools to protect themselves from having unwanted children.

Our private sector leaders, in particular have shown to be a tremendous voice, well-ahead of the national government, and support in addressing gender-based violence because they have long seen how gender-based violence affects their ability to run their businesses. Given the rates of violence amongst salaried women, we need to work to up the game of the private sector broadly, and find ways to collaborate.

We invite all other programming focused on directly ending gender-based violence, as well as those programs focused on the root causes, to join with us, collaborate with us, align with us, integrate programs with us, join voices with ours, so that our collective result is more than what any one of us can hope to achieve alone.

We know we need to partner and bring together all of the institutions, companies, agencies, civil society groups and people who believe in ending violence against women and girls. We need to combine our voices into a common, consistent, loud and disruptive message that demands and secures change.

We believe that for our country, nation and people to succeed, we must be guided by and hold onto values that will maintain our decisions and

actions to high standards. Making decisions and spending resources without regarding these values or vision will result in poor outcomes. For Papua New Guinea, these values are pronounced clearly in the five National Goals and Directive Principles of the National Constitution. Prominent in these inspirational goals and directive principles is the call for equality.

As such, we are guided by the lofty vision of the National Goals and Directive Principles set out at the very birth of our country as an independent nation. These are the values and principles that should define our country and guide all activities of the State and its institutions, and as such, we use them to guide our own.

**We, the Members of the Parliamentarian Coalition to End Gender-Based Violence agree to:**

1. Meet annually to host a national Summit to address gender-based violence where we will hear and discuss the status of women and girls in our nation, and agree to an annual set of goals and action plans at provincial, regional and national levels.
2. Develop a monitoring body or secretariat that will track and provide an annual report on status of the national and provincial strategies, and more broadly on the status of gender equality, gender-based violence, and women and girls in general in the nation.
3. Develop, resource and actionize provincial and district strategies and tactical plans to promote gender equality and an end to gender-based violence, and share these with each other, and report out on their status annually.
4. Support the adoption of the National and Provincial GBV Council structure in line with the successful national structure used to address HIV AIDS in Papua New Guinea.

5. Support the police: demand and ensure they are properly resourced, trained and equipped to address GBV and be held accountable for their actions
6. Collaborate across provinces to create a seamless system of sharing real time case-management data on gender-based violence.
7. Develop and implement strategies to engage men and boys as allies and partners in promoting gender equality and stopping gender-based violence and agree to be role models and lead the change.
8. Instate curriculum in schools on gender-equality, conflict resolution, relationship management and gender-based violence to help the generations to follow us to grow up violence-free.
9. Implement provincial and district level coordination and governance mechanisms as guided by provincial GBV strategies and action plans;
10. Develop national and cross-provincial and district coordination mechanism, with legally agreed protocols on data sharing around GBV cases, perpetrators and survivors.
11. Develop, resource and implement strong family planning services in our provinces and districts to ensure women and girls have the right to choose when, where and with whom they have children.

**Stand together as a Coalition in the National Government to:**

1. Demand and vote for Parliament to pass legislation that reserves seats in parliament for women.
2. Demand and vote for Parliament to pass anti-gender-discrimination legislation.
3. Demand that laws against gender-based violence are enforced regardless of whether women are coerced to withdraw their claims or not.

4. Demand the National Government resources and actionizes the national gender-based violence strategy.
5. Demand the National Government reform the judiciary system to triage and expedite gender-based violence cases and ensure due process and enforcement is served.
6. Demand the National Government create a monitoring body to provide timely, and at the very least annual, updates and data on the status of women in the country.
7. Demand the national government ensure the police formalize, resource and actionize the FSVU in the formal system of the police across the country.
8. Demand the national government ensures that courts adopt, formalize, resource and actionize specialized GBV streams.
9. Demand the National Government take responsibility for creating a referral pathway for survivors that works.
10. Encourage the National Government adopt a GBV council-based structure similar to the response used to address HIVAIDS.

# CONSTITUTION

## Equality and the Guiding Principles from the Constitution and Goals and Directives

The following are quotes from the Constitution of Papua New Guinea relevant to the issue of gender equality and an end to gender-based violence.

"We have also emphasized the importance of women being able to make their full contribution to the welfare of the country, on an equal footing with men."

"Obstacles to educational and other opportunities which face women at present should be removed, and insofar as it is within the power of the Government to do so, the difficulties facing women who wish to involve themselves in the affairs of the nation should be reduced."

"All activities of the state should be directed towards the personal liberation and fulfillment of every citizen, so that each man and woman will have the opportunity of improving himself or herself as a whole person and achieving integral human development."

"All citizens should have an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the development of our country."

"For us the only authentic development is integral human development. This means that we use the term development to mean nothing less than the unending process of improvement of every man and woman as a whole person."

"We take our stand on the dignity and worth of each Papua New Guinean man, woman and child. In effect, this means that integral human development must reach out to and enrich Papua New Guineans in every part of the country."

Key provisions from the Papua New Guinea National Constitution

"Our first goal to be for every person to be dynamically involved in the process of freeing himself or herself from every form of domination or oppression so that each man or woman will have the opportunity to develop as a whole person in relationship with others."

**SECTION 32:** "Right to Freedom: Every person has the right to freedom based on law ..."

**SECTION 35:** "Right to Life: No person shall be deprived of his life intentionally."

**SECTION 36:** "Freedom from Inhumane Treatment: No person shall be submitted to torture (whether physical or mental), or to treatment or punishment that is cruel or otherwise inhuman, or is inconsistent with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. "

**SECTION 37:** "Right to the Protection of the Law: Every person has the right to the full protection of the law, and the succeeding provisions of this section are intended to ensure that that right is fully available, especially to persons in custody or charged with offences."

**SECTION 55:** "Equality of Citizens: Subject to this Constitution, all citizens have the same rights privileges, obligations and duties, Irrespective of race, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, religion or sex."

# SPEAKERS

## **Coalition Members**

Hon. Powes Parkop, Governor NCD  
Hon. Allan Bird, Governor, ESP  
Hon. Minister Justin Tkatchenko, Minister Housing & Urban Development Hon. Gary Juffa, MP, Governor, Oro  
Hon. Jelta Wong, Minister Civil Aviation and Member for Gazelle  
Hon. Richard Masere, V/Minister Assisting PM  
Hon. John Rosso, Minister Lands  
Hon. Ginson Saonu, MP, Governor, Morobe  
Hon Tony Wouwou, MP/Governor, WSP  
Hon. Charles Abel, Member Alotau  
Hon John Kaupa, MP Port Moresby North East  
Hon. Francis Maneke, Governor, WNBP and Member for Talesea Open  
Hon. Timothy Masiu, Minister Communications

## **Dignitaries**

H.E. Hon. James Marape Prime Minister  
H.E. Mr. John Philps, Australian HC  
H.E Mr. Jernej Videtic, EU Ambassador to PNG  
H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General  
Hon. Wake Goi, MP, Minister of Community Development & Religion

## **Co-Chairs**

Dame Carol Kidu, former Minister and MP  
Ms. Patricia Mesa, Deputy City Manager

## **Speakers**

Mrs. Anna Bais, Secretary, Department of Community Development  
Ms. Fazilah Bazari, Founder ACDP  
Ms. Ruth Beriso, Manager, GBV Secretariat  
Mrs. Tracy Ganaii, Senior Magistrate, Waigani Committal Court  
Mr. Jack Imbu, OCFS  
Ms. Marcia Kalino, Coordinator on Male Advocacy, National FSVAC  
Mr. Bernard Kipit, City Manager, NCDC  
Ms. Ruth Kissam, Director, PNG Tribal Foundation  
Ms. Daisy Plana, CEO, Femili PNG  
Superintendent Delilah Sandeka, FSVU, Royal Police Constabulary  
Ms. Taies Sansan, Secretary, Department for Personnel Management

Mrs. Serena Sasingian, CEO Digicel Foundation  
Ms. Tessie Soi, Family Support Centre, Port Moresby General Hospital  
Mrs. Bridgette Thorold, Country Director Child Fund PNG  
Mr. Simon Yanis, OCFS Director

### **Moderators**

Julie Bukikun, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP  
Evronne Kennedy, Executive Director, Business Coalition for Women  
Bronwyn Kili, Programme Specialist, UN Women  
Nou Vada, MKA and Co-Chair NCD Taskforce on Gender-based Violence Prevention  
Mr. Steven Paniu, Assistant Representative UNFPA

### **Commentators**

Ms. Jean Jano, Eastern Highlands Family Voice  
Sargent Alice Arigo, FSVU Hela  
Ms. Ume Wainetti, Advocate  
Mr. Dickson Kiragi, Men Against Violence, Ministry of Community Development and Religion  
Mr. David Rupa, Principle Advisor, National Youth Development Authority  
Ms. Rebecca Kuku, Journalist  
Ms. Kathy Johnson, Chair, Haus Ruth  
Mr. Pondros Kaluwin,  
Public Presecutor  
Mr. Baka Bahia, Assistant Registrar, Common Law  
Mr. Otto Trur, NCD Welfare Services  
Mr. Robin Fleming, CEO BSP  
Ms. Pam Kenyon, HR Department Nambawan Trophy Ltd  
Mr. Michael Koupere, Operations Manager, Black Swan  
Mr. Leon Buskens, Country Manager, Oil Search Ltd.

### **Rapporteurs**

Mrs. Mea Issac, Commissioner NCDC  
Ms. Bessie Maruia, Program Manager, UN Women  
Ms. Danielle Winfrey, Program Manager, Bel Isi  
Ms. Shea O'Neal, CEO POMCCI

### **Masters of Ceremony**

Dimaji Douglas  
Albert Newton