

Pacific Women in Leadership Weekly Digest

HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PACIFIC WOMEN



Two out of three Pacific women have suffered some form of violence. This was shared by Pacific Community principal strategic lead for Pacific Women and Girls, Mereseini Rakuita during a high level panel discussion at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday.

Reflecting on the past three decades since the Beijing Platform for Action came into existence, Ms Rakuita said while there was a lot done in the past 30 years, the Pacific still faced a number of challenges – gender-based violence being one of them.

“Gender equality is no longer recognised as just a stand alone but also recognised in our revitalised Pacific leaders gender equality declaration, for example, of last year,” she said.

Ms Rakuita said gender equality was being put at the front and centre of regional and national development agendas.

–FIJI TIMES

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SOLOMON ISLANDS LOSES WOMEN PRODUCTIVITY WORTH APPROXIMATELY USD 15.1 MILLION IN FORMAL SECTOR IN 2021 DUE TO VIOLENCE, STUDY SHOWS



A UN Women costing study shows that Solomon Islands has lost approximately USD 15.1 million in the annual productivity of women in the formal sector in 2021.

This accounts for 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 2021.

The report 'Charting new paths for gender equality and empowerment: Asia Pacific regional report on Beijing +30 review' was launched on Tuesday at the Ministerial conference on the Beijing +30 review in Bangkok.

It said the burden of violence has imposed an economic toll on the health, social services and justice sectors, and harms society at large by causing a considerable loss of women's productivity.

"Findings from an UN-Women costing study on violence against women and girls in Solomon Islands reveal that the annual productivity loss of women in the formal sector due to intimate partner violence is approximately 15.1 million United States dollars (\$), accounting for almost 1 per cent of the country's 2021 gross domestic product (GDP)."

The report revealed that 23.6 percent of girls aged 15 years and older are subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner.

Read the Report: "[*Charting New Paths For Gender Equality And Empowerment: Asia-Pacific Regional Report on Beijing+30 Review*](#)"

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TABUYA CALLS FOR UNITED ACTION ON GENDER EQUALITY



Achieving true gender equality demands political will, bold actions, feminist leadership, and meaningful partnerships for transformative change.

Minister for Women Lynda Tabuya shared this while speaking at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

She said while progress has been made on the Beijing Declaration, the bold promise of equality, dignity, and opportunity for women and girls is yet to be fully realized.

Tabuya also said that Fiji recognizes that the promise of Beijing 1995 cannot be fulfilled by maintaining the status quo or relying on symbolic gestures.

She also said that Fiji has pledged to advance the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with renewed focus and determination, and called on global leaders to honor the legacy of the Beijing Declaration with tangible actions.

Tabuya outlined Fiji's achievements, such as the 57% of tertiary graduates being female, the enactment of gender-sensitive legislation and policies, improved maternal health services, and increased reporting and recognition of the need to address gender-based violence.

-FBC NEWS

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CHAMPIONING GENDER EQUALITY AT INAUGURAL PACIFIC TALANOA FOR WOMEN IN TOURISM



The Minister for Culture and Tourism Choylin Yim Douglas, recently participated in the Inaugural Pacific Talanoa for Women in Tourism held in Suva, Fiji.

It was hosted under the theme: "Thriving Together – Gender Equality for Tourism Growth and Transformation."

The Talanoa session which was part of this year's South Pacific Tourism Organization Council of Tourism Ministers meeting brought together leaders, industry experts, and advocates to discuss the critical role of women in driving sustainable tourism development across the Pacific.

Minister Yim Douglas was invited to speak and reflect on the challenges and opportunities for women in tourism.

In her address, she highlighted the significant yet often under-recognized contributions of women in the tourism sector.

The session underscored that despite tourism's vast potential, women continue to face significant barriers to full participation and leadership.

Globally, women make up the majority of the tourism workforce, yet in the Pacific, only 22% of tourism business board chairs are held by women.

–SOLOMON STAR

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WOMEN CONTINUE TO PERFORM 5 TIMES MORE CARE WORK THAN MEN: UN OFFICIAL



Women continue to perform up to five times more care work than men, restricting their ability to engage in formal employment, a top UN official said here on Tuesday.

Addressing the opening session of the UN Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment in Asia-Pacific here, Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, said that the region has seen an increase in women's political participation, but progress is still slow.

"Women face significant barriers to economic empowerment, with three in five employed women engaged in informal work, with little to no social protection. For example, in 12 out of 20 Asia-Pacific countries, women make up less than 40 per cent of the STEM workforce, limiting their participation in high-growth industries.

"The unpaid care burden is another major factor, as in Asia and the Pacific, women continue to perform up to five times more care work than men, restricting their ability to engage in formal employment," she said, adding that by investing in the paid care sector, we can reduce the burden of unpaid care work while creating decent jobs for women.

Noting that women hold 20.8 per cent of parliamentary seats in the region, below the global average of 26.5 per cent, and only five countries in the region (including Central Asia) have more than a quarter of women cabinet ministers.

–NDTV

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