

Nauru Young Women's National Council (NYWNC) Submission Report for UPR.

1. Background

The NYWNC is an NGO body formed by young women of Nauru, ages from 16- 35yrs under the Women's Affairs Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs In June 2009.

Since its establishment the NYWNC have been working closely with national stakeholders such as the Women's Affairs Office, Nauru Police Force, Health to combat VAW and the Regional Rights Resources Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (RRRT/SPC) at a national level conducting awareness campaign and workshops on VAW.

1. Women and the Law

Violence Against Women (VAW) is a Scourge of society today is a global concern which is being addressed internationally through different mechanisms and forums such as international treaties like CEDAW and other such avenues. Commitments have been expressed through participation in different mechanisms to realise the solutions to dealing with VAW at a national, regional and international level. However there are hurdles to realising these objectives in the Pacific such as Nauru, The cultural, customary, social and economic barriers and the archaic and discriminatory systems and constraints of laws and policies. Another hindrance in tackling VAW is the lack of research, statistics and information on VAW and its contributory factors. Each Pacific nation is unique and there is no ONE solution to deal with VAW. Solution must be customised to meet the requirements of the country. However it is accepted that VAW affect not only women, but children the family and the community and the consequences of a prolific problem is a national, regional and international concern. In Nauru, VAW is a national concern which through the cooperation of key stakeholders is beginning to be addressed at the legal level. In terms of the social aspects of VAW, Nauru is yet to realise a comprehensive and collaborative national plan in dealing with such behaviour. Both however are still at its infancy stage and more work must be done to effectively combat VAW in Nauru. Currently Child being sexually abuse is increasing rapidly and something needs to be done.

Recommendation:

All national stakeholders have put together efforts to reduce all forms of violence that have been occurring in the past and to date, but little have been achieved. Government needs to review its laws to protect and promote women's rights. Currently there is no Policy on Gender and no specific law on VAW Therefore we the NYWNC would like to advocate for legislative change to enhance women's lives in Nauru.

Nauru is state member of the United Nation and is one of the 3 small island pacific country that has not ratified CEDAW therefore government should take positive action

- a. The Nauru government has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and signed the ICCPR, CAT and CERD. No report has been submitted to the CRC Committee.
 - Needs more awareness raising at the community level and in school on the Rights of a Child and child abuse.

- Government needs to introduce stronger laws against perpetrators and increase the penalties and sentencing in courts
- Enforce stronger laws on adults engaging in sexual activities with minors

2. Employment

Women have been sexually harassed at work and their rights being violated, especially with women foreigners who are married to locals.

Recommendation:

- Government need to make policy on sexual harassment and abuse.
- Provide gender sensitive training for women and men to promote non-discrimintory working relationship and respect for diversity in work and management styles.