

# Miki Wali – Host, Producer and Broadcaster



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~ Miki Wali

Miki Wali is the host of FemLINKPACIFIC’s radio program Miki on Monday’s which is part of the weekday Rainbow Connections series which sees the [Haus of Khameleon](#), Rainbow Women’s Network and [Diverse Voices and Action for Equality Fiji](#) collaborate on FemTALK 89FM. In May 2014, Miki together with her Rainbow Connections colleagues were part of a rural network consultation and ‘Radio with Pictures’ simulcast which was a first step in bridging the gender identity gap within the rural community media network of FemLINKPACIFIC (read more on that [here](#)).

She reflects on some of the work she’s involved in as a Trans rights activist and a young woman producer and broadcaster.

Tell us a little bit about yourself...

I am Trans and a youth feminist activist, human rights defender and gender advocate. I have been working within the civil society movement for a number for years now. I am a member of the Management Collective of the Haus of Khameleon [a youth and Trans led feminist movement working to create a safe space for Trans people in Fiji] and Public Relations Officer for the

National Youth Council of Fiji. I am also just joined the UN Working Group for Youth and Children.

On joining FemLINKPACIFIC...

I joined FemLINKPACIFIC in 2012, during Fiji's constitution-making process. I'm part of the young women's producers and broadcasters team and also do some research work.

It's such a privilege to host Miki's on Monday every week from 9.30am to 2.00pm on FemTALK 89FM. It's a radio program that covers a spectrum of feminist issues, such as LBT\* rights, disability, women human rights defenders, intersectionality and so on. I dedicate two hours of the program to a sort of Feminist 101 talk. It started last year when we had the Red Lipstick Campaign where we encouraged people to put on their lipstick and raise awareness about sexual violence and to speak out against victim blaming. The campaign was tied around the [International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia \[IDAHOT\]](#) and was on freedom of expression.

On producing programs for community radio...

When producing the show, I do a lot of research. Twitter has been very helpful to me as a producer and broadcaster, as well as other online feminist resources such as [Everyday Feminism](#) and [Bitch Magazine](#). I also like to go out and collect content. Editing can be tedious at times but also interesting because you get to listen to all the stories you have collected.

Post-elections I interviewed a group of politicians' and we had interesting discussions on different issues. I notice that whenever I interview people, the subject of LBT rights always pops up even if I haven't asked a question regarding it. I find this very interesting and I hope it doesn't pop up just because they see the person interviewing them and think "oh this person is Trans and is coming to talk to us about gay stuff". This I think, should never be the issue.

Soon we're also going to be doing markets reports with LBT market vendors and learn more about how they access facilities and run their business. So that's something we can look out for on FemTALK 89FM!

Apart from Miki's on Monday's, I also co-host another program called Rainbow Connections every Wednesday from 9.30am – 2.00pm with Uha

Fifita of Rainbow Women's Network and Audrey Seru of Diverse Voices and Action for Equality Fiji. On the program I represent Haus of Khameleon. Our program is dedicated to discussing issues faced by people of diverse sexual orientations, identities and expression. We try and cover the entire spectrum and aside from talking to LBT women, we also talk to allies and anyone that is interested.

During the show we often discuss the most current issue facing LBT people. This year we have also started profiling the work of LBT organisations. This includes the ones that are registered, unregistered and those who are struggling to register due to prejudice. At the moment we have around 11 rainbow organisations and this indicates to us that the community has expanded and we need to engage and expand our networks with them.

With the expansion of FemLINKPACIFIC's transmission range we have a lot of listeners and we have received good feedback on our programs. This means that we have to be on our toes when we produce content because we have many people listening in!

During our program we try and link our discussions to the [Beijing Platform for Action \(BPA\)](#) – especially around [Section J](#) [focusing on women and the media], [Beijing+20, International Conference on Population and Development](#) and so on. Taking BPA's Section J, we analyse the representation of LBT women in the media and discuss on the reasons why our stories are not covered. We're grateful that a platform like FemTALK 89FM is able to do so.

On the World Radio Day weekend broadcast marathon...

I was one of the people that did the midnight to morning shift. It was very cool and exciting! The marathon was very meaningful to me because as a young Trans person I got the opportunity to communicate with diverse listeners. Thank you FemTALK 89FM for the platform!

Hosting Rainbow Connections during the marathon was also interesting because aside from people that were following and commenting online, we also had people calling the station at 2.30am! I think the promotion we did in the lead up to the marathon via social media, really did help in boosting listenership. We also did replays, so if people missed the live show, they could catch the replays the day after.

As the theme for this year's World Radio Day was 'Youth and Radio' our programs focused on young people which saw us sharing and promoting global to local perspectives and linking it with the Beijing Platform for Action, the [Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

We'll be organising another marathon in May to mark IDAHOT and I hope we'll have more listeners tuning in.

On mentoring...

People don't just come to you and ask if you want to be mentored and offer advice. If you're part of a group that is often marginalized, you have to push your way through. For me, it's really about that – pushing myself to the forefront and getting out there. You cannot just wait. The Post-2015 Development Agenda is very important for LBT women and we need to be part of the discussions.

Being part of the women's movement as an activist, I have come to learn a lot about the different capacities that I need to embody in different spaces. It has been a struggle doing that but I try to embrace and celebrate it. I look forward to all the opportunities that may come my way. And if there challenges I hope to learn from them and move on.

\*Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans\*

At the time of this interview Miki was preparing to represent FemLINKPACIFIC and the Haus of Khameleon, as a member of the Pacific media team at the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Miki has been invited to speak at an intergenerational dialogue with world leaders, missions and CSO's representatives from around the world.

About FemLINKPACIFIC

FemLINKPACIFIC: Media Initiatives for Women is a Fiji-based feminist community media organisation. It was founded in 2000 by a group of women

and men who came together through the Blue Ribbon Peace Vigil. The organisation emerged in the aftermath of the 2000 political crisis in Fiji, as a peaceful way of speaking out against what was happening in Fiji.

On 5 May 2004 it launched Fiji and the Pacific's first women led community radio station – now known as FemTALK 89FM.

In February 2015, the organisation added another milestone to its growing list when it celebrated the technical expansion of FemTALK 89FM Suva to cover the Navua to Nausori corridor of Viti Levu by boosting the transmission power to 300 watt (it used to be 100). This enables FemTALK 89FM Suva to reach communities in some of the most densely populated areas between Navua and Nausori.

Pacific Women is a strong supporter of the critical work FemLINKPACIFIC engages in to ensure the women of Fiji, especially rural women, have a voice in national decision-making. As part of its long-term support to increase gender equality in the Pacific, Pacific Women was pleased to invest a grant of AUD 186,000 to FemLINKPACIFIC, which contributed towards this technical expansion.

Following this year's weekend marathon broadcast held to mark World Radio Day (themed 'Youth and Radio'), the organisation's young women staff and volunteers reflected on their journey so far.