

First Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) - Pohnpei Division of the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs

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'After gaining knowledge from the sessions, I am better equipped to work in the social work environment - I have a better understanding of people, of situations and of problems,' said a workshop participant.

Another participant highlighted the importance of 'understanding the norms that perpetuate violence and strategies by which communities can counteract them', adding that 'I will incorporate session learnings into my everyday life and work.'

These participants are new staff of Pacific Women partner, the Pohnpei Division of the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs, who attended the division's first Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) staff workshop.

The training aims to support new staff, particularly the recently appointed Pohnpei Women's Programs Coordinator and Pohnpei Disability Coordinator, to better understand issues relating to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), gender-based violence (GBV), intersectionality and how these issues directly relate to their everyday life and work within government.

With improved knowledge and understanding of GBV and GESI, staff can continue performing their roles in a way that prioritises these considerations across all levels of their work.

Appreciating and using important cultural and workplace contexts was central to the training.

The training was collaboratively designed, and supported by Pacific Women FSM Family Protection Adviser, Sonali Owen, working with Stuard Penias, National FSM Acting Assistant Secretary for the Social Division of the Department of Health and Social Affairs; Noriekka Lekka, Chief of Pohnpei's Division of Social Affairs; Katsandra Shed, Pohnpei Women's Programs Coordinator; and Edmont Allen, Pohnpei Disability Coordinator.

The Pohnpei Division of the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs is committed to gather, share and further develop new learning through an orientation package for all new staff joining the department.

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