

Pacific activities for International Women's Day 2021

Regional

SHARE

March 8, 2021

International Women's Day

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by a crisis such as COVID-19, so their inclusion in response and recovery is critical.



Australian Aid  **PACIFIC WOMEN**
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

International Women's Day is held on 8 March every year around the world to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women particularly during the COVID-19 response. IWD is a global campaign to reflect on progress made, call for increased focus and celebrate the achievements of women across the globe.

Pacific Women partners led and participated in a range of activities for International Women's Day (IWD). Here are some highlights including links to Facebook and website stories:



In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Chuuk Women's Council commemorated the [first anniversary](#) of its Tongen Inepwineu Counseling Center (TICC) for survivors of gender-based violence [along with a market day](#) as well as a One Billion Rising campaign. The Australian Embassy in Micronesia hosted [an IWD function](#).

In Fiji, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) called for more [collective action](#) to end all forms of violence against women and girls. FWCC also held a [candlelight vigil](#).

Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) organised a 'If Women Stop, the World Stops' [concert](#) in solidarity with the Women's Global Strike Movement.

Fiji Women's Fund held an event in Labasa, Northern Fiji, celebrating the [leadership of women](#) and girls as vital first responders, rebuilders and peacebuilders in communities.



In Kiribati, the Australian High Commission in Kiribati supported [a march](#). At the event a key-note address was delivered by the President of the Republic of Kiribati His Excellency Taneti Maamau, with a presentation provided by Australian High Commissioner, Bruce Cowled.

In Papua New Guinea, Equal Playing Field shared messages from its staff who [#ChooseToChallenge](#) to help build a nation where women and girls are equal and their voices are heard.

Femili PNG highlighted the need to '[continue to celebrate women not just today but everyday](#)'. The PNG Business Coalition for Women acknowledged its many [partners](#) and also celebrated the achievements of the [47 graduates](#) of the 6th BCFW Certificate IV Leadership and Management Course. For the Papua New Guinea Family Protection Order Research Project, the Australian

National University (ANU) Department of Pacific Affairs launched a series of [short films](#).



In Nauru, the Unique-Lee Foundation shared a post in commemoration of IWD featuring [Unique-Lee](#) with her sisters. The Foundation was set up in memory of Unique-Lee, a young woman with a loving family and friends who was killed by her boyfriend when she was 21 years old. Her friends and family created the foundation to remember her and to raise awareness about dangerous relationships.

In the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) shared Pacific Women's profile of [Daisy-Alik Momotaro](#), a leading advocate to end violence against women and girls in the RMI and Executive Director of WUTMI.



In Samoa, a [Women in Political Participation in Samoa](#) panel discussion was hosted for IWD by the National University of Samoa. The panel was supported through the Australian High Commission, with the Women in Leadership in Samoa (WILS) initiative and partners. The Australian High Commission also supported a 'Women in Science' event to highlight various career paths women and girls can follow and studies they can pursue within science.

In Solomon Islands, the Australian High Commission was part of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs 'Women in Law' IWD breakfast. There was also a [march](#) held in Honiara on 8 March to celebrate the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from COVID-19.



In Tonga, the [launch](#) of the Tonga National Service Delivery Protocol outlined the response and referral pathways for survivors of violence against women and girls. His Majesty's Armed Forces (HMAF) in Tonga hosted a group of young women from the [Take the Lead](#) (Taki Mu'a) initiative for IWD.

In Tuvalu, there was a national roundtable, a morning church service and a [statement from Prime Minister, The Honorable Kausea Natano](#) acknowledging women's significant contribution to food security especially during COVID-19. The food security roundtable was organised by the Gender Affairs Department and attended by Live and Learn, Tuvalu Red Cross, the Tuvalu National Council of Women and the Department of Agriculture.



In Vanuatu, the Vanuatu Women's Centre held a [Reclaim the Night march](#) and shared photos from its [Sanma](#), [Penma](#) and [Malampa](#) counselling centres. Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu [Sarah deZoeten](#) [joined](#) VWC's march. The High Commission also awarded Liza Naupa Pechan and Jilda Shem the [winners](#) of the IWD Awards 2021. CARE Vanuatu shared an IWD [video](#) stating: 'You are beautiful, you're strong, you're powerful. Stand up and rise up, women, we've got to stand tall!'

Also for IWD, the We Rise Coalition shared profiles of women leaders from its new partners, including: [Doris Tulifau](#), Director of Brown Girl Woke in Samoa; [Yasmine Bjornum](#), Executive Director and Founder of Sista in Vanuatu; [Irene Abbocak](#), Program Manager for Sista in Vanuatu.