

Gender Affairs Department representation at the Universal Periodic Review

Tuvalu [Enhancing Agency](#)

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The United Nations Universal Periodic Review is a mechanism to examine the human rights performance of its member states. Tuvalu was examined during the 30th session of the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva in May 2018. With Pacific Women's support, the Acting Director of Tuvalu's Gender Affairs Department, Lanuola Fasiai, and Efren Jogia of the Office of the Attorney-General were able to join the Tuvalu Delegation.



Members of Tuvalu's delegation to the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva. Photo credit: Gender Affairs Department, Office of the Prime Minister, Tuvalu. Ms Fasiai said it was an important opportunity to represent the Gender Affairs Department in this global forum.

'Attending the Universal Periodic Review really gave myself a strong commitment to work and support women's right in Tuvalu,' she said. 'I have learned and noticed how several countries worldwide support and voice their concern about women's issues like gender equality [and] stop violence against women.'

Delegates from other UN member states recognised the positive steps Tuvalu has taken to advance human rights since its first periodic review in 2008. With respect to women's human rights, these included the passing of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014 and the submission of Tuvalu's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Report.

Several countries also recommended that Tuvalu work more on accelerating of the rights of women, as stipulated under the CEDAW convention. The Review recommended that Tuvalu adopt other human rights treaties such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Tuvalu delegation also organised a side event on how climate change affects human rights. Ms Fasiai made a presentation highlighting the impact

of climate change and disasters on women's economic development and vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly and children.

Tuvalu welcomed all of the recommendations from other countries. The Tuvaluan delegates will consult with national stakeholders on the recommendations and then present the relevant recommendations to Tuvalu's CEDAW review committee.

'Promoting women's rights in Tuvalu is a priority area that the Gender Affairs Department is working on to fulfil Tuvalu's global obligations,' Ms Fasiai said.