



MEDIA RELEASE (STRICT EMBARGO 25 Nov.)

New Tuvalu COVID-19 video animation about the safety of women and children

Wednesday 25 November 2020 (Tuvalu, Pacific Islands): In a first for Tuvalu, a new video animation is being released about the safety of women and children in their homes during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Being launched during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the 'Staying Safe at Home' video addresses domestic and family violence which typically increases during times of crisis such as COVID-19.

The Gender Affairs Department has taken a lead role in developing the video, produced by Australia's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC).

Mr. Salesa Falesene, Communications and Campaign Officer at the Gender Affairs Department explained "what makes the animation so special, is the way it's created specifically for Tuvalu featuring local people and how they dress, talk and the phone helplines we use."

"In responding to COVID-19, we continue to go through a lot of change in our homes and our communities as a result of travel restrictions, lockdowns, job losses and other responses to the pandemic. As part of that response it is essential to ensure the safety of women and children who live with violence in their homes.

"As the video says, 'everyone in the community can stand together to help women and children, and we can all act to keep our communities safe' as domestic violence is against the law. It is illegal."

The video animation is one of five created by *Pacific Women* for; Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Chuuk Women's Council's new Tongen Inepwineu Counselling Centre (TICC); republic of Marshall islands (RMI) with Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) Wetu in Mour domestic violence program; Nauru with the Ewak n Erateko Safe House and Ministry of Home Affairs; and Tuvalu with the Gender Affairs Department and Social Welfare Department.

Its launch comes during the 16 Days of Activism as individuals, organisations and government ministries in Tuvalu raise their voices to end violence against women and girls. The 16 Days of Activism is a global campaign starting on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, and ends 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The Pacific has some of the highest recorded rates of violence against women and girls globally, with almost 2 out of 3 women who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, almost double the global average. In Tuvalu, rates of intimate partner violence are 4 women out of 10.

The video animation is available from the Gender Affairs Department, Government of Tuvalu Facebook page and on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwtQWrrTg6I&feature=youtu.be>

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Photo and caption:



High resolution photo available:
Information@pacificwomen.org.fj

Caption: A new video animation for Tuvalu asks communities to ensure women and children are safe from domestic violence in their homes during COVID-19, and at all times. The Gender Affairs Department has taken a lead role in developing the social media video, produced by Australia's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) program in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC).

Credit: Pacific Women program

Twitter

A new Tuvalu video animation addresses the safety of women & children in their homes during COVID-19, & at all times. The Gender Affairs Dept. has led in-country development of the video, produced by [@PacWomenProgram](#) in partnership with [@spc_cps](#) #EVAW See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwtQWrrTg6l&feature=youtu.be>

Facebook

In a first for Tuvalu a new video animation is being released about the safety of women and children in their homes during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Here at Gender Affairs Department we are proud to have taken a lead role in developing the video, produced by Australia's [@PacificWomenProgram](#) in partnership with [@spc.int](#).

Being launched during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the social media video addresses domestic and family violence that typically increases during times of disaster such as COVID-19.

Watch online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwtQWrrTg6l&feature=youtu.be>

#16Days2020