

# SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE PACIFIC: KILLER FACTS

**AMNESTY**  
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Aotearoa New Zealand



**70%** of women experience domestic violence as a national average PNG Law Reform Commission

**50%** of women have experienced forced sex

**Six** women's refuges operate in PNG

*"My husband broke my nose and hit me with timber over the back of my head. I went to the police to tell them to arrest him – they said they would do it but they didn't."*

Margaret, East Sepik, Papua New Guinea

An extra **2,038** family violence offences were recorded in 2009/10, an increase of **8.5%** over the previous year.

NZ Police

68% of ever-partnered women in Kiribati reported experiencing at least one act of physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

**35** of the 65 murders in New Zealand in the last financial year were classified as family violence (53.8%).

NZ Police

*"Sometimes there are fights, arguments do take place, but it's nothing very brutal about violence against women".*

Sir Michael Somare, leader of Papua New Guinea, November 3, 2010

**55%** of women in Solomon Islands, **20%** in Samoa, and **15%** in New Zealand have experienced sexual violence from their intimate partner.

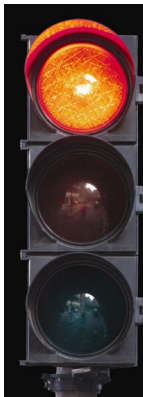
The World's Women 2010 Trends and Statistics, United Nations

An **11.8%** increase in family violence offences occurred in 2010 in New Zealand

NZ Families Commission

On average **14** women, **six** men and **10** children are killed as a result of family violence each year in New Zealand

NZ Police



**PACIFIC LEADERS:  
CHANGE THE LIGHTS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

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**Four** women were killed in domestic violence related incidents in Tonga in 2009.

Tonga Police

*"No Pacific Island government will achieve the Millennium Development Goals or the aims of the Pacific Plan if it does not take responsibility for the violence being committed against its own female citizens. Solving this problem is at the heart of social and economic advancement in the Pacific Region."*

Apolosi Bose, Amnesty International Pacific Researcher, August 2010

**26%** of women have been beaten while pregnant.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

**73%** of women who had experienced sexual violence by their intimate partners were also likely to have been physically abused by them.

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Nearly **one in six** Australian women (16%) have experienced violence by a *current or previous partner* in their lifetime.

The Personal Safety Survey

Nearly **two-thirds** (57%) of Australian women report experiencing at least one incident of physical violence or sexual violence by a man over their lifetime. **Just under half** (48%) have experienced physical violence, and **one-third** (34%) have experienced sexual violence.

*International Violence Against Women Survey, Australian component*

In Kiribati, **68%** of women have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse.

Most Pacific Island countries do not have specific legislation to address gender-based violence. Some, such as Vanuatu, PNG, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Fiji, have made great progress in creating policy and drafting legislation to protect women, but until these are in law, Pacific women continue to remain at grave risk.

Since 2000, **2,753** women were victims of physical abuse = an average of 23 women every month.

Tonga Police

Nearly **one in five** women (17%) have experienced *sexual assault* in Australia.

The Personal Safety Survey

STOP SGBV AGAINST  
WOMEN IN THE PACIFIC

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Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.