

Briefs ..

- On the 23th of April 2021, Vfc mediated a polygamy case between a wife and a husband in the presence of peace officer, ward councillor and Voice for Change staff including its Legal Officer.



- When it comes to violence, it occurs any time of the day. On the 15th of May Saturday 2021 on a weekend, Vfc mediated a GBV case between a perpetrator and police team after rescuing a woman survivor.



**Watch out for the next Issue and more stories of change.*



The New Normal - Adapting to Virtual Meeting Processes.

...more stories on page 4

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We Rise Coalition



United Nations WOMEN



"EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN"

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



Hello Everyone,
We are delighted to welcome you all to Voice for Change second quarter edition of its newsletter for 2021.

I would like to thank our partner, We Rise Coalition, that made it possible for the publication of this quarter Issue and the extension of funding support to VfC EAW Response Desk for another three months.

In this quarter, VfC is excited to share amazing

activities including:

- ◆ Expanding Partners
- ◆ The adapting to virtual learnings and meetings that we are undertaking to connect with people nationally and internationally.

I would also like to acknowledge my committed hardworking staff that are making the work of the organisation on-going and becoming visible.

Enjoy Reading and God Bless!

Lilly BeSoer



Gender and Family Farm Team Goal Training

From the 22nd to 24th of June 2021, VfC conducted Gender and Family Farm Team Goals Training to rural farmers of South Waghi under the NARI "Lukautim Graun" Project funded and supported by University of Canberra and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.



Group photo for the participants

It is a preparatory session for VfC to prepare couples to respect, understand each other and work together as a team. VfC is providing an ongoing support to 40 rural farmers to learn soil

fertility skills on sweet potato farming for income earning.

Special Parliamentary Committee Public Inquiry on GBV

On the 24th of May 2021, VfC Director Ms Lilly BeSoer presented the challenges civil societies and NGOs including VfC faced within their line of work at the rural level to Special Parliamentary Committee Public Inquiry on Gender Based Violence in PNG. As one of the panel speakers, she shared the organisation's experience on the ground advocating for women's rights and made way forward recommendations requested by the committee.



VfC team visualizing and watching Ms Lilly speaking during the Inquiry

Vision

Peace and Gender Equality For All

Purpose/Mission

VfC is a Provincial Women's Organisation based in Jiwaka, working to End All Forms of Violence against women and girls. The Organisation is building a Society that Promotes Women's Human Rights and Equal Participation

Principles

- Equality
- Women's Rights
- Accountability
- Transparency

Values

- ◆ Commitment
- ◆ Fairness
- ◆ Trust
- ◆ Partnership

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Hi all,

Welcome to the second quarter of our newsletter for 2021.

VfC is very excited to share the work undertaken during this three months period. We have highlighted some of VfC core activities and would

like to give our partners, stakeholders and fellow countrymen and women a fair share of what the organisation is doing.

So enjoy reading this newsletter and learn for yourself.

Gideon Bare

Newsletter Editor

EDUCATE A MAN, YOU EDUCATE A MAN. EDUCATE A WOMAN, YOU EDUCATE A GENERATION.

First lady **Michelle Obama**

ACRONYM

CSW - Commission on the Status of Women

EVAW - Ending Violence Against Women

FSVAC - Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee

FSVU - Family and Sexual Violence Unit

GBV - Gender Based Violence

GBVAW - Gender Based Violence Against Women

HR - Human Rights

IWD - International Women's Day

IWDA - Inter National Women's Development Agency

SPC - Special Parliamentary Committee

WAVE - Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment

WEPP - Women Economic Empowerment Program

WHRD - Women Human Right Defender

WLP - Women Leaders Pathway

VAW - Violence Against Women

VFC - Voice For Change

YWLEP - Young Women Leaders Empowerment Program

Closed Case Conference at Mingende, Simbu

A Closed Case conference was held by Highlands Women Human Rights Movement Network at Mingende Simbu Province on the 27th of May 2021.

VfC, one of the advisory member of the HWHRM Network met with Key stakeholders from Simbu and Jiwaka to discuss on repatriation and reintegration of SARV accused families back to their home in Womatne Gembogl District in Simbu Province.

Other agendas were also discussed with recommendations been made like:

- Doing more awareness in Simbu Province
- Provide counselling services to survivors
- Do more GBV/HR and Peace Building Trainings



It is a bond partnership were human rights organisation and like minded individuals come together to support and help women and children that are in danger.

Provincial Secretariat Setup Assessment Meeting

On the 17th of June 2021, VfC was invited by UNDP team from Port Moresby to attend the Assessment Meeting on setting up GBV Secretariat at the provincial level.

The UNDP team comprised of PNG Representatives, FSVU Country Coordinator and NCDC GBV Secretary met with Jiwaka team of CSOs, Provincial Government representatives and Law and Justice Sector officials at Jiwaka Mission Resort and formed a working committee towards the establishing of the Secretariat.



Advocacy and Coalition Building Second Workshop

VfC Legal Persons, Miss Kiungui Kilipi BeSoer was invited by the UN Women to participate in the second Highlands Region Women Leaders Advocacy and Coalition Building Workshop from the 22nd to 24th of June 2021 at the McRoyals Hotel in Mt Hagen.

More than 60 female leaders from across the region came together and learn more about the principles of coalition building and to develop advocacy plans in response to the current model of National Government's Temporary Special Measures.



Miss Kiungui (fourth right) with the group after the workshop

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Response Program (EVAW RESPONSE)

Voice for Change Ending Violence Against Women and Response Program is one of the main focus area for the organisation that is providing the following services:

- Counselling - one to one, couple and group
- Referrals - hospitals, police and village and district courts support
- Repatriations and Safe house support on Sorcery related issues
- Legal Aid Supports like: IPO, child maintenance, labour under payments, arson cases, represent survivors in courts
- Mediation - family conflicts and reconciliation supports

Within the program, the full working team for this quarter of 2021 comprised of:

- ♦ A Coordinator
- ♦ Counsellors
- ♦ Legal Officers & Legal Persons
- ♦ A support staff

The EVAW Response Desk has two office set ups that are located at:

1. Banz town (Old Provincial Building)
2. Kukpa main office

Under the program, VfC has key stakeholders such as Police, Health and Courts to help survivors and clients receive the needed services.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS QUARTER

Below are summary of activities undertaken under the EVAW Response Desk:

- Received a total of 96 clients including both women and men for this quarter 2021
- 1 child maintenance
- 1 child custody cases
- 13 IPOs successfully obtained by survivors
- 3 medical support
- 1 police referral
- 23 SARV Survivors Repatriations and Reintegration
- 1 GBV Survivor Repatriation
- 4 received safe house service
- 246 Secondary survivors recorded

The real identity was withheld but the story is one of VfC success stories

Journey of A Rural Woman Accessing Justice

Jeni Tom, 46 years old from Minj first came to Voice for Change in 2014 with her two Children, 5 and 14 years old seeking help for Child Maintenance. At that time VfC had no legal persons/officers so VfC assisted her with K200 to pay for someone in Minj to provide Paralegal Services.

As the court process took its toll, her Court files went missing due to the court house building maintenance.

In 2017, with the help of VfC she filed a new case. This time it was successful and the court ordered her spouse to pay K70 fortnightly as child and spouse maintenance. However, in 2019, the husband and magistrate made a stop to the maintenance. Again with the help from VfC, she did an affidavit and appealed the decision. In February 2021, the District Court ordered the Husband to pay a sum of K200 fortnightly.

This court battle has been on-going for 6 years but Jeni's persistence and determination has resulted on many benefits to herself and her family. VfC has involved her in a lot of activities that has enabled her to be a Counsellor with Voice for Change EVAW Desk for almost 4 years now.

To this day, VfC is continuing to support Jeni and other survivors to seek justice.

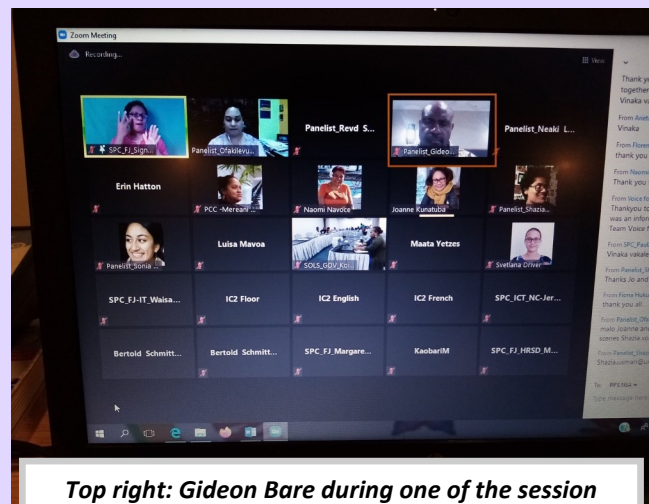
Online 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women

From the 26th to 29th of April 2021, VfC was given an opportunity to participate at the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women hosted in Fiji.

Ms Lilly BeSoer and Mr Gideon Bare from VfC was on different side-events panel each and shared the impacts of VfC that is creating safe spaces for women and girls and empowering women economically to prevent violence. They also shared the different types of preventive approach used and how males are engaged within the organisation to help protect women survivors.

It was an event that is held after every three years and this year's main focus was on:

- Women Economic Empowerment



Top right: Gideon Bare during one of the session

- Gender Based Violence
- Climate Change
- Covid 19 pandemic.

EVAW Desk End of Term and Guidelines Setup Meeting

After the first quarter of work, VfC EVAW desk held an End of Quarter meeting on the 9th of April 2021 and shared challenges, lessons learnt based on the data collected and discussed possible ways forward.

After a month, an urgency meeting was held again on 7th of May 2021 due to increased number of survivors recorded over the past four months of this year 2021. The team discussed and drafted proper tools and guidelines to effectively manage the increasing number of clients as majority of underprivileged rural women



Group photo with participants at the meeting

were seeking legal aid services provided by EVAW desk.

Brief Meeting with possible Partner

Two officers from Voice for Change Miss Kiungui BeSoer and Ms Brenda Samson met with USAID PNG Representative Ms Linda Pekosi at Jiwaka Mission Resort on the 25th May 2021.

The team shared each others work and discussed opportunities that exist within the organisation they both can work together.

USAID PNG under the Lukautim Graun Program is interested to partner with Voice for Change to support and empower women from Jiwaka.



L-R: Ms Linda, Miss Kiungui and Ms Brenda

Reintegration of SARV Survivors back home

Three families from Womatne of Gembogl in Simbu Province were repatriated and reintegrated back into their community on the 28th of May 2021 after been accused of sorcery.

Facilitated by VfC and supported by Highlands Women Human Rights Movement, a full team comprised of; police and defence force, peace and good order and medical professionals mobilised and reintegrated the whole 20 family members including the children back home.



VfC Legal Officer Ms Nadika Popena serving the IPOs to the perpetrators at Womatne

21 IPOs were successfully issued to the perpetrators witnessed by the communities and their leaders.

Peace Mediation between Chimbu and Jiwaka Peace team

On the 16th of April 2021, VfC facilitated a Peace Mediation program between a team from Simbu and Jiwaka on car incident that resulted in three deaths.

Simbu Provincial Police commander Supt. Horim Piamia led his team from Simbu of the deceased side and met with Jiwaka team from the car owner's side at Voice for Change Resource Centre.

Both sides spoke out their grievances and mediated a possible way of solving this issue with the understanding of bringing satisfaction and peace back in their communities .



Supt Piamia and Jiwaka team during the mediation

Launching of Market By-Laws at Rotbung, Minj

VfC Legal Persons Miss Kiungui Be'Soer was invited to witness the Launching of the Community Market By-Laws at Minj Rotbung on the 11th of June 2021.

Surrounding communities including Konumbka tribal leaders made a bold step and formed a Controlling Committee to address the lawlessness within the market vicinity. Delegates like Eastern End Police Commander and other law enforcing agencies from Jiwaka also attended the event.

Miss Be'Soer was given a space to speak to the people that came to witness the Launching.



One of the guest speaking during the launching