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## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

### **Solomon Islands**

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## Abbreviations

BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CCC	Christian Care Centre
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCCG	Democratic Coalition for Change Government
DV	Domestic Violence
DSE	Development Services Exchange
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FPA	Family Protection Act
FSC	Family Support Centre
GEWD	Gender Equality and Women's Development
LDC	Least Developing Country
LRC	Law Reform Commission
MCILI	Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration
MDPAC	Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination
MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resource Management
MFAET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
MJLA	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
NAACC	National Advisory and Action for Children
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NWC	National Working Committee (UPR)
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPMC	Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
RWASH	Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community

SPC-RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organisation
YWPG	Young Women's Parliament Group

## Acknowledgements

The Solomon Islands Government acknowledges the dedication and hard work of the NWC and its secretariat in ensuring that the process of compiling the report was as consultative and participatory as resources allowed. The SIG further acknowledges the contribution of the stakeholders<sup>1</sup> during consultations and the technical assistance of OHCHR, PIFS, SPC-RRRT and the Commonwealth Secretariat in the process.

## Foreword

It is both my pleasure and honour to present the final Solomon Islands Universal Periodic Review Report for the second cycle.

This report presents a candid picture of how far Solomon Islands has progressed in implementing, promoting and protecting human rights within its legislative and policy frameworks. In the last four and half years, Solomon Islands has made significant strides in the enjoyment of access to basic services such as health, gender, education and justice. Citizens have been able to pursue their freedoms in a peaceful and stable environment.

As a Small Islands Developing State (SIDS) and Least Developing Country (LDC), Solomon Islands still faces limitations in providing basic services to the fullest extent possible. Our small economy, limited market opportunities and topography present challenges that hinder our ability to provide our people with access to services. Against this backdrop, the government remains committed to its responsibilities.

As Solomon Islands tells its human rights story through this report, it is my hope that you have an insight on our endeavours to progressively achieve our human rights obligations.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the Government and people of the Solomon Islands to our development partners. Going forward in this process, I call for your continuous help through your development assistance programmes and projects.

Tagio tumas (*thank you very much*)

Hon. Milner Tozaka  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade

## **Introduction**

1. The Solomon Islands concluded its first cycle under the Universal Periodic Review in May 2011. The Solomon Islands Government received 115 recommendations and accepted 112. Solomon Islands remains committed to the promotion and protection of human rights for its citizens. This report highlights continuing efforts undertaken to implement the accepted recommendations.

2. Cabinet endorsed the establishment of a Solomon Islands UPR National Working Committee (NWC).<sup>2</sup> In August 2014, the NWC, co-chaired by the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET) and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and with civil society representation was formed.<sup>3</sup>

## **I. Methodology and process for preparing the report**

### **A. Methodology for preparing the report**

3. MFAET took a leading role in facilitating processes related to the production of the National Report for the second cycle. Training was held for NWC in October 2014 with support from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC-RRRT) and the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Fiji. The training provided the NWC with guidance on the reporting process and format for the national report. At the end of the training, a matrix with thematically clustered recommendations received and progress taken since 2011 was developed. In November 2014, the NWC widely disseminated the matrix to stakeholders (24 government line Ministries; the NGO umbrella body- Development Services Exchange (DSE))<sup>4</sup> for their input.

4. Three (3) consultations were held in 2015 to solicit information from relevant stakeholders across the Government, Civil Society and UN Agencies.<sup>5</sup> The Consultations were used as a platform to inform stakeholders about the UPR processes and reports; solicit feedback on the implementation of recommendations and validate information provided by Stakeholders. The information gathered was fed into the matrix noting the achievements, best practices and challenges. Where information gaps existed, additional information was solicited through desk research, oral interviews and written questions to the relevant stakeholders by the NWC Secretariat. A donor roundtable was also held to inform development partners on the country's UPR process and progress.<sup>6</sup>

### **B. Process for preparing the report**

5. The NWC subdivided the tasks of drafting the report and collecting additional data amongst its members. The drafting sub-committee, which included the secretariat, compiled the information received from the matrix and consultations and drafted the report. Consolidation of all relevant information and data resulted in a first draft in early September 2015. The NWC presented a final draft of the report to Cabinet mid-September 2015. Cabinet considered and endorsed the final draft of report. The NWC documented the process and published the final UPR report in booklet form. Copies were shared with relevant stakeholders including the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee (FRC). Through this process, the NWC took note of the gaps in the implementation of recommendations with a view to improving during the next cycle.

## II. Developments since the previous review

### A. National laws and legislation

6. The Constitution of 1978 is still the supreme law of the land with Chapter II providing for the Rights and Freedoms for the people of Solomon Islands. In 2007, the Government embarked on a Constitutional reform process through the Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU), established under the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC). Between 2011 until present, consultations were held and amendments were made to a 2009 draft Federal Constitution. Broad stakeholder consultations are underway on the current 2014 draft.

#### Other human rights related legislation since 2011

7. The government enacted an Immigration Act in 2012 and Immigration Regulations in 2013<sup>7</sup>. The Act criminalises people smuggling,<sup>8</sup> aggravated people smuggling,<sup>9</sup> trafficking of persons,<sup>10</sup> trafficking of children<sup>11</sup> and those benefiting from the exploitation of trafficked persons.<sup>12</sup> While these positive steps have been undertaken, the Government recognises that the Act needs to be reviewed to address elements of internal trafficking activities in the Solomon Islands.<sup>13</sup> The Government further notes that no cases have been prosecuted so far and that the penalties for the offences under section 72–73; 76–78 may not be punitive enough compared to criminal code offences.

8. The Solomon Islands National University Act (SINU Act) 2012 established for the first time, a national higher tertiary institution with the vision to provide quality teaching, learning, skills training and research in the country. The establishment of SINU increases access to tertiary education for marginalised groups.

9. The Public Financial Management Act 2013 (PFMA) provides for the control and management of the public finance of Solomon Islands. It promotes transparency and accountability, increased fiscal monitoring, reporting and tighter regulation of procurement and the use of public resources.

10. The Constituency Development Funds (CDFA)<sup>14</sup> Act 2013 provides for the dissemination of constituency development funds for individuals/group recipients in fifty (50) constituencies. CDFFA describes how these funds can be regulated and appropriately managed in a transparent and accountable manner. The government takes a rights-based approach in funds allocation to combat gender discrimination and ensure gender equality.

11. The National Parliament Electoral Provisions (Amendment) (NPEP) Act 2013 made changes<sup>15</sup> that introduced the Voter Biometric Registration system used in the 2014 National General Elections.

12. The Police Act 2013 clearly articulates principles upholding the rule of law, human rights for individuals, gender equality; performance of duties impartially and independently from improper influence; professionalism, ethical behaviour, integrity and fair policing. The Act encourages community policing to combat crime and promote justice to make communities a safe place to live.

13. The Child and Family Welfare Bill 2013 gives powers to the Social Welfare Division (SWD) under the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) to provide protection, welfare and care of a child where the rights of the child have been violated. The Bill recognises and promotes the principle of the best interest of the child. SWD can take the child into the safe custody of another family member with prior consultation.

14. The Family Protection Act (FPA) 2014 criminalises Domestic Violence (DV) in all its forms and protects victims. It empowers the courts, police and health care professionals to assist victims' access services such as medical attention and justice.

15. The Land and Titles (Amendment) Act 2014 created a Land Board with conferred powers and functions that relate to the allocation, development and administration of land in a fair, transparent and equitable manner to meet the needs and welfare of citizens.

16. The Political Parties Integrity Act (PPIA) 2014 was enacted to improve the registration, administration, operation and promotion of integrity within political parties. Section 35 of the PPIA encourages broad participation of any person from the national or provincial level to establish parties without discrimination. Section 48 of the PPIA provides for a ten percent of candidacy for women in a political party who can contest in the elections. This is a positive step in recognising the need to increase women's participation in politics.

17. The Fisheries Management Act (FMA) 2015 makes provisions for the conservation, management, development and sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources of Solomon Islands. The Act is a positive development for matrilineal communities<sup>16</sup> where women are actively involved in fisheries and marine projects to support livelihoods.

18. The Penal Code (Sexual Offence) (Amendment) Bill 2015 is in its consultation stage. This bill aims to introduce new categories of sexual offences. These include persistent sexual abuse of a child under 18; sexual abuse of child over the age of 15 but under 18 by a person in a position of trust, authority or dependency in relation to the child; child commercial sexual exploitation and participation, use, distribution and storing of child sexual exploitation materials (visual, audio, print and data).<sup>17</sup>

19. The Ministry of Public Service (MPS) is finalising a new Public Service Bill to strengthen the public sector human resource management and governance framework. This Bill will support Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO), Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Anti-Discrimination<sup>18</sup> frameworks already in place. MPS will review current recruitment and selection systems, policies and tools to improve access to public employment for People With Disabilities (PWDs). The Bill will also address equal opportunity for all persons to compete for employment, promotion, transfer and training.

## **B. National measures and policies**

20. The government developed a ten year National Development Strategy (NDS) 2011–2020 whose core objectives are poverty alleviation; support to vulnerable members of society; access to quality health care (including combating malaria, HIV and Non-Communicable Diseases-NCDs); access to quality education; increased economic growth and equitable distribution of wealth; utility and infrastructure development; effective management of the environment and eco-systems; protection from natural disasters and improved governance and order at national, provincial and community level.

21. The Government used the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as national strategy indicators for the implementation of the above objectives. The twenty-four (24) line Ministries formulate policies and strategies to address focus areas under their respective portfolios. Each government Ministry develops a work plan of activities and also undertakes to translate these policies into legislation where necessary.

22. The National Peacebuilding Policy launched in 2015 is part of Government's post-conflict initiative to achieve sustainable and stable peace.



## 1. Women and children

23. The Government is currently reviewing the progress in the implementation of the Gender Equality and Women's Development (GEWD) 2010-2012 policy with the support of the SPC. The review process is to enable having a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism for implementation of policies to measure achievements and keep track of challenges.

24. The Solomon Islands National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls was endorsed by Cabinet in August 2015. The strategy aims to increase gender equality and employment opportunities through economic empowerment.

25. The Solomon Islands National Council of Women (SINCW) National and Provincial Elections Campaign Strategy Plan of Action 2014-2015 was launched to strengthen and build competence and confidence of women candidates. It provides information and communication resources for public campaigning and undertake civic education programs in identified Constituencies.

## 2. Education

26. The Government through its Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) developed key planning documents on education to promote 'Education for All'. These include the *National Education Action Plan (NEAP) 2013-2015*; *the National Human Resources Development and Training Plan (NHRDP) 2013-2015*; *Review of Early Childhood Education sub-sector and the development of standards for Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE)*.

## 3. Disability and other minority groups (elderly people and orphans)

27. A National Policy on Disability Inclusive Development (NPDID 2013-2018) was completed in April 2014 and is awaiting cabinet endorsement.

## 4. Adequate standard of living: Health (reproductive health, immunisation, water and sanitation)

28. The Democratic Coalition for Change Government (DCCG) policy direction on health care acknowledges the gaps in the health sector, focusing on reforming the legislative framework, improving infrastructure, institutional strengthening and support for research funds towards new emerging medicine and science to combat new diseases.

29. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) developed a National Health Strategic Policy 2011-2015 which focuses on health improvement, health care, policy and planning and human resources management paying special attention to NCDs.

30. The National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV & STIs (2014–2018) was developed to promote a multi-sectoral approach national response with technical assistance from UNICEF and UNAIDS. It provides strategic direction and coordination based on evidence of the most appropriate interventions for HIV and STI prevention, treatment and care in the Solomon Islands. The NSP 2014-2018 identified legal and policy reform as a national response priority for its implementation period.

31. The 2014 Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (RWASH) and the RWASH Design and Construction Standards govern the development, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation, implementation and review of the provision of sustainable rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene development activities in the Solomon Islands. The policy defines the responsibilities of different stakeholders, provides clear guidance on achieving sectoral aims, and promotes an integrated approach to RWASH projects.

## **5. Environment and climate change**

32. Current activities in addressing climate change are guided by the Solomon Islands Climate Change Policy 2012-2017 pending the finalisation of legislation on climate change. The policy promotes a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management.<sup>19</sup>

33. The National Mineral Policy developed in 2013 seeks to strengthen mining administration, promote an equitable and competitive fiscal framework, transparent mining benefits and prevent protected areas from mining.<sup>20</sup>

## **C. Official authorities and government institutions with human rights mandate**

34. Government departments implement core objectives of the NDS with a view to mainstream human rights in their work.

35. The Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for investigating public complaints of Government maladministration.

36. The Office of the Leadership Code Commission (LCC) investigates matters of misconduct involving Members of Parliament (MPs) or senior civil servants.

37. The Judiciary has taken a leading role in using international human rights principles as persuasive principles.

38. Parliament has an important function in the domestication of international treaties and in its oversight function over the Executive to ensure that a human rights approach is used to promote the development of the most marginalised groups in society.

## **III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, public awareness of human rights**

39. The MFAET has the responsibility under its portfolio<sup>21</sup> to facilitate human rights reporting. This responsibility is shared with the MWYCFA on CEDAW and CRC reporting. The Government is working with partners to raise awareness on the rights of vulnerable groups.

## **IV. Action taken since the last UPR**

### **A. Establishment of National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in accordance with Paris Principles (Recommendations 79.1–7)**

40. The Government was assisted by the PIFS, OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) to undertake a scoping mission on the possibility of establishing a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in January 2012. The Government consulted with civil society organisations and faith based organisations and a report was compiled and tabled in Cabinet.

41. The Cabinet noted that existing institutions such as the Ombudsman's Office and the Leadership Code Commission (LCC) could have a greater mandate to address human rights issues.

42. The 2014 Federal Draft Constitution proposes the establishment of a Human Rights Commission. The functions may include promoting, monitoring and adjudicating human rights disputes and matters.

**B. Justice and law reforms (Recommendations 80.2, 80.13, 80.15–22, 80.24, 80.31, 81.19–20, 81.42–44, 81.46)**

43. A number of legal reform issues papers were developed by the LRC since 2011. The LRC in undertaking its mandate of legislative review is guided by international human rights standards.

44. The Government remains committed to ensuring that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) principles on juvenile justice are appropriately codified in national law. The Correctional Services of the Solomon Islands (CSSI)<sup>22</sup> in partnership with stakeholders provide on-going rehabilitation programs (education, vocational, and faith based life skills programs) to prepare inmates for re-integration into their communities after serving their sentences.<sup>23</sup>

45. All six correctional service centres<sup>24</sup> have capacity to accommodate female and juvenile prisoners/detainees separate from adult males in accordance with UN standards. Plans to construct a juvenile detention centre at the Tetera Prison on Guadalcanal are progressing.<sup>25</sup>

46. Training on the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Protect and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children was carried out for legal services providers, prosecutors, government officials, police, health care workers and civil society by the American Bar Association (ABA) project on Anti-trafficking in the Pacific region. The project launched broader Trafficking in Persons (TIP) initiatives by the Government.

47. A National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking and People Smuggling 2015-2020 is being finalised. An Enforcement Unit established under the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration (MCILI) investigates TIP cases. A Trafficking In Persons Advisory Committee (TIPAC) is a multi-stakeholder technical team that assist victims and provides advice in the implementation of the Immigration Act. TIPAC key activities include raising awareness on trafficking.

48. Civil Society partners continue to complement government efforts to combat human trafficking. For instance, the Family Support Centre (FSC) established a legal unit to provide support for victims of human trafficking. The Church of Melanesia (COM) Anglican Women developed a training manual on human trafficking in 2013.

49. There is no legislation to legally prohibit corporal punishment of children. In 2012, an issues paper on the Review of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code by LRC provided that corporal punishment must be reasonable and any degrading punishment performed in public is not allowed.

50. MEHRD carried out a study on ‘barriers to education’ with a set of recommended actions towards addressing corporal punishment. These actions target school teachers, school boards, parents/guardians on the use of non-violent teaching and learning strategies. A Standards Unit in MEHRD is responsible for developing School Administration Manuals and discipline procedures.

51. The jurisdiction of the Local Courts will be reviewed to include Violence Against Women (VAW) cases so that justice is accessible to victims of domestic violence, especially in rural areas. The FPA provides for ‘authorised persons’ to make, vary or revoke an interim protection order.

52. The 2014 Constitutional amendment to upgrade magistrate posts to Constitutional posts (equivalent to judges of higher courts) increased the number and calibre of magistrates recruited. It is a step in addressing the backlog of cases at Magistrates level throughout the country. Five new magistrates took their oaths in February 2015.<sup>26</sup>

53. The LRC received instructions to research and consult with stakeholders in government and NGOs towards the review of the minimum age of marriage from 15 to 18 years with consent and from 18 years and above without consent, under the Islanders Marriage Act and relevant ordinances.

54. The Penal Code review undertaken by LRC produced an issues paper on the minimum age for criminal responsibility to be increased from 8 years to 12 years. The LRC previously faced capacity issues which slowed the progress of this review exercise.

55. The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was completed. The TRC report was submitted to the OPMC in 2013 and tabled briefly in Parliament in 2014. The Government is in the process of developing a framework for implementation and seeking the necessary resources for the recommendations made in the report. The framework will provide guidance on how to address sensitive and complex recommendations on institutional reforms, judicial trials of perpetrators, peace and reconciliation, rehabilitation and reparations.

**C. Women and children (Recommendations 80.3–12, 80.27–30, 80.32–37, 80.40–43, 80.48, 80.81, 81.29, 81.39–41, 81.45, 81.52)**

56. In 2013, the LRC made recommendations for the re-definition of rape so that it applies to all people, even where there is a marital relationship between victim and accused.<sup>27</sup> Case-law<sup>28</sup> in 2012 for the first time held that a husband can be found guilty of raping his wife. The High Court applying CEDAW principles under Articles 15 and 16 stated that a husband and wife are equal partners in marriage and held that a husband can be criminally liable for raping his wife.<sup>29</sup>

57. The MWYCFA continued to take the leading advocacy role on ending VAW and girls in collaboration with its relevant stakeholders. The Ministry provides annual budgetary support to two local NGOs, the Christian Care Centre (CCC) and FSC towards initiatives to prevent family violence.

58. Implementation of the FPA began in September 2014 with the development of an implementation strategy and the formation of an Advisory Council. The Council comprises of government representatives, civil society, police and health care providers that will ensure that services and legal assistance are provided to victims of DV. An Information Committee responsible for standardising information on the FPA for training and awareness purposes was also formed. The FPA awareness programs are drawn with four key messages centred on protection, safety, responsibility and communication. A key medium for awareness programs<sup>30</sup> is the annual 16 days of activism campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). During the 2014 ‘16 days of activism’, a ‘take action’ toolkit was produced with information on the prevalence of DV, the FPA and strategies that can be adopted to eliminate VAW and girls.

59. A GBV Coordinator post was established in 2015 within the MHMS. The Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the SAFENET Referral Network, a referral system comprised of government stakeholders that can be used by DV victims when reporting violence committed against them.

60. A Family Protection Unit (FPU) was created and funded under the RAMSI Law and Justice program within the Public Solicitor’s Office in 2012. The FPU gives priority to all

family violence cases that are referred to it by any of the stakeholders in the SAFENET membership<sup>31</sup>. In 2014, 47% of weekly legal clinic clients were family law cases, 53% were civil claims. Seifples was established<sup>32</sup> in 2013 as a health clinic for DV victims needing medical attention before referral to FPU for legal assistance.

61. The RSIPF Academy introduced a VAW Module in their curriculum. Annual trainings on eliminating VAW for the Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSSI) officers and Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) are continuing. Family Violence Standards and Operation procedures by RSIPF promote investigation of complaints initiated by victims on SGBV. The Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) and a Family Violence Unit (FVU) within RSIPF carry out criminal investigations in all sexual related offences; undertake family violence awareness and register reported cases under community policing programs, respectively. FVU introduced a register distributed in all police posts nationwide to record FV complaints to collect data on DV occurrences. Statistics from the FVU show an increase in the number of cases reported from 55 in 2012 to 726 in 2015.

62. A DV Unit is also established in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in 2013 (ODPP) where serious DV cases resulting in deaths are prosecuted. SAU and FVU work in collaboration with the ODPP on DV cases from across the country that are fully investigated and prepared for prosecution.

63. The National Advisory and Action for Children (NAACC) endorsed the 2015 Dynamics of Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) cross provincial study findings conducted by Save the Children. The study recommended inter alia, (1) a gender and child rights sensitive standard Code of Conduct for Fishery and Logging Industry employees; (2) a revision of the Solomon Islands Anti-TIP Action Plan so that greater protection is provided against domestic trafficking of children; (3) provision of technical support, training and resources for institutional strengthening of government ministries implementing child related programmes; and (4) Increased joint collaboration between local and international children's rights NGOs for effective intervention and sustainability of project initiatives. The study found children who have limited education and livelihood opportunities are at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited. NAACC will use these recommendations to advocate and inform program and policy directions with efforts by the labour sector work and relevant stakeholders to regulate and reduce the risk of child labour and child trafficking. Awareness raising at community level on commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse is executed by a sub-committee<sup>33</sup> of NAACC whilst CSOs provide counselling, temporary protection services and social integration of child victims.

64. The Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) in partnership with relevant ministries provided training programs for the public service on the FPA. In 2013, the Government Information and Communication Technology Support Unit (ICTSU) partnered with IPAM to enable all government employees' access capacity building trainings online.

65. The government in partnership with SPC is focused on increasing sustainable livelihood opportunities and educational programmes for young people closely linked with the market economy through the Youth at Work (Y@W) program which began in 2012. Aimed at addressing the high unemployment of young people in the capital, Y@W continues to provide training, skills development and group/peer mentoring opportunities for youth to start small businesses and access public sector employment.<sup>34</sup> Over 400 youth have been placed in public service over past 3 years in internships. 10 of these were permanently employed in the public sector after completing internships. 316 youth groups ran Youth Market stalls in 2014-2015; 45 new businesses were funded and started in 2015.

66. The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System (CRVS) was launched in early 2014 with the support of development partners. CRVS allowed access to birth registration for children and their families living in rural areas to significantly improve. Fifteen additional health satellite service centres that directly facilitate birth notifications were established in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Temotu, Makira, Western Provinces and Honiara.<sup>35</sup>

67. The MHMS and Civil Registration Office (CRO) have an on-going agreement to centralise birth registration through the SIG ICTSU system. In 2014, for the first time, a national recurrent budget allocation of SBD\$1million was provided to the CRO for operational costs.

68. On-going training of nurses on the importance of birth registration, processes and procedures was conducted. The Government endorsed the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific developed by UN ESCAP in 2014.

69. Towards the National General Elections (NGE) in 2014, the SINCW conducted national consultations on Temporary Special Measures (TSM) for women's participation in decision making bodies.

70. The Solomon Islands National Parliament launched the Young Women's Parliamentary Group (YWPG) in 2011 with the support of UNDP. The YWPG promotes the participation of young women in leadership. It continues to raise awareness and encourage debate on TSM for elected reserved seats for women in Parliament and undertook a baseline survey on voter behaviour towards female candidates before and after the 2014 elections. The survey<sup>36</sup> identified vote buying during campaigns and gendered cultural perspectives on leadership as some of the barriers to supporting female candidates.

71. The Ministry of Public Service (MPS) has undertaken public service reform in two stages. MPS launched a human resource management strategy aimed at increasing gender mainstreaming and increase female participation in all government machinery. Measures to ensure these two reforms in place were realised resulted in newly introduced key result indicator into all Permanent Secretaries contracts to ensure gender sensitizing in the Public Service and secondly ensuring there is a gender sensitive recruitment and selection process in place.

72. The number of females holding mid-level positions in the Public Service has gradually increased. However, fluctuations are noted at senior level positions of permanent secretaries and under-secretary. Two out of twenty-three permanent secretaries are women, and five out of thirty-nine under-secretaries are women. Opportunities to elevate qualified and experienced women into senior management positions are open.

73. In the RSIPF for the first time, the Deputy Commissioner of Police is a female. A gender audit was undertaken by CSSI with a view to address gender equity in recruitment processes and increase women in senior positions. Recommendations from the gender audit will provide guidance on how to improve women's meaningful participation at leadership level across the government sectors.

74. At the political level one female MP was elected in the 2012 by-elections. In 2014 four female representatives were elected at provincial level and one MP was voted into office.<sup>37</sup>

75. Data from the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce (SICC) data shows that 40 out of 120 members are young entrepreneurs. Twelve of these are female members and part of the Solomon Islands Women in Business (SIWIBA).<sup>38</sup> The Association of Solomon Islands Manufacturers also has women in its governing committee. Four of the nine State Owned Enterprises (SOE) have females on their boards.

76. The Government has four females in substantive and acting capacity as Heads of Diplomatic missions abroad.

**D. Non-discrimination and gender equality (Recommendations 80.1, 80.25–26, 80.28, 81.21, 81.24–29)**

77. Consultations are underway on the proposed Tribal Lands Dispute Resolution Panels Bill that seeks to resolve land usage and ownership disputes by engaging traditional chiefs and tribal elders. Consultations have indicated strong support for the compulsory inclusion of women on the panels. A new Land Board was established within the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Surveys with one female to be on the Board.

78. The Land Advocacy Legal Support Unit (LALSU) in the Public Solicitor's office continued to carry out awareness programs and legal clinics on various land related and environmental issues in communities across the country. This process encouraged more women participation in consultations at the community levels about land cases. Many of these cases involved mainly customary land ownership and inheritance issues, perpetual estate matters and registered customary land issues.

79. The current review process is expected to provide improved coordination, monitoring and evaluation of GEWD policy. Further expectation is that the gender statistics initiative launched in 2014 supported by SPC will increase the availability of sex-disaggregated information, build capacity for data collection, and support gender analysis of statistical data that will subsequently inform effective implementation and reporting of the GEWD and EVAW policies.

**E. Right to an adequate standard of living (Housing, health, water and sanitation) (Recommendations 81.54–55, 80.44–45)**

80. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey secured SBD\$ 13 million under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program to support efforts for urban profiling, regularisation of temporary occupation licenses and improved planning practices. Housing and access to land remains a critical component for the overall management and strategic planning for towns or urban centres. Two Ministries<sup>39</sup> had built houses to accommodate their staff although shortages of housing in provincial centres remain a challenge for effective service delivery across the country in all sectors but more so in education and health.

81. In 2015, the Solomon Islands consolidated national guidelines on the use of Anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) for preventing and treating HIV among adults, adolescents and children. The Government developed national guidelines for HIV Testing Services. Currently, reproductive health, immunisation programs are extended to all rural and provincial clinics. Nine out of ten Provincial Centres all have access to a hospital, nurse aid post or clinics.

82. The MHMS through its reproductive health and adolescent programs undertook inclusive sexual reproductive health training for women and girls including PWD and conducted awareness and education talks for communities and schools. Youth friendly clinics were established in Lata, Vonunu (Western Province) and in Kukum and Rove in Honiara providing counselling services on family planning, STI/HIV-AIDS counselling and the use of contraceptives.<sup>40</sup>

83. A comprehensive life skills and sex education syllabus has been incorporated into the school curriculum. Piloting began at schools in Honiara, Temotu and Choiseul provinces from Grades 4 to Form 3. Nurses assist teachers on the delivery of the subject

material in schools. A baseline research on abortion is underway and expected to be completed in 2015.

84. The Government recognises that supplying adequate, reliable safe water to the highly dispersed, largely rural population is a major challenge and relies on partnerships with development partners, local communities and faith based organisations to carry this out.<sup>41</sup> This partnership is highly valued given limited availability of WASH data; shortage of trained local hydrologists, water engineers, sanitation specialists, technicians and plumbers. The integrated National Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Sector Plan 2013-2025 was developed as a response to concerns of rural and urban communities about water supply and sanitation prioritising the provision of adequate, safe water to hospitals, clinics and schools, increased use of household & community rainwater harvesting and improved urban and peri-urban drainage. The Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) embarked on projects to supply boreholes and water re-piping in Honiara and identified provinces.

**F. Human rights issues (Education, electoral system, democracy, labour and disability) (Recommendations 80.39, 80.45–49, 81.56–58, 81.12–15, 81.22–23, 81.30–32, 81.37)**

85. The Government continues to implement a fee- free basic education policy covering year 1 to Year 9 to promote access to education, although parents still pay other related costs. According to the MEHRD Performance Assessment Framework, there were more boys (51%) enrolled at ECE level than girls (49%) in 2013. The total enrolment at primary level in 2013 increased by 21.2%,<sup>42</sup> and more female (52%) students were enrolled at secondary level than males (48%). This trend shows that gender balance is slowly being realised in enrolment.

86. SINU recently introduced diploma and bachelor programs in health and applied science at the University.

87. A recommendation noted from the on-going review of the Education Act is for pregnant female students to return to mainstream education system after giving birth. This will increase opportunities for such students to further their education.

88. A literacy unit in MEHRD has been established and Technical Assistance is engaged to provide advice and support to literacy initiatives nationwide. This Unit helps in conducting a review on the Literacy Framework and curriculum materials.

89. Statistics on the overall literacy performance show that females performed better than males from Level 3 upwards. Numeracy data shows that both males and females achieved similar results at all levels.

90. Solomon Islands uses the First Past The Post electoral system for the election of representatives at the national and provincial levels. The candidate with the highest number of votes is declared an elected member to the Parliament and the Provincial Assembly. The 2014 elections saw the introduction of a Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) System to detect multiple registrations and improve registration accuracy and integrity of the ballot. 85% of persons eligible to vote were registered. Of this, 139,059 were women (48%). The BVR increased public confidence in the integrity of the register.

91. National and provincial awareness raising programs on the new BVR were carried out by both government and NGOs through print and broadcast media and consultations at provincial level. To promote transparency in 2014 elections, regional and international observers were deployed to the Solomon Islands at the invitation of the SIG.



92. The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission recently created a website which provides information on the electoral processes.

93. The government remains committed to development and this is clear from the government's active participation in a number of inter-governmental negotiations on Financing for Development, Conference of the Parties 21 (COP21) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Consultations were held through MDPAC on the SDGs, which once adopted will be mainstreamed into the NDS. SIG remains committed to strengthening partnerships between the Private Sector, Faith Based Organisations and Civil Society for the benefit of its citizens.

94. The establishment of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) unit at the MHMS strengthened the promotion of rights of persons with disabilities at community level. The CBR office continues to build the capacity of its staff work in collecting disability data as the basis to draw planning strategies on how to address social services needs of PWD nationwide. The CBR established focal points throughout the nine (9) provinces to carry on awareness raising on the ratification of the CRPD, participation of women with disabilities in the 16 days of activism and the participation of PWD in sports in the Paralympic games at national and international level. These are measures towards mainstreaming of disability issues at all levels of society.

95. With the recent review of the NPDID 2013-2018, the CBR Office is working closely with relevant government departments to ensure that mechanisms for implementation of the CRPD are planned and budgeted for as pre-emptive steps to ratifying CRPD. These include infrastructure such as ramps, a user-friendly public transportation system and accessibility to government buildings.

96. Some developments in areas such as Gizo (Western Province) have access ramps built at the newly constructed hospital, the ANZ bank and planned for the Tourism Information Office. The High Court in Honiara has access for wheel chairs. Apart from education centres for persons with disabilities, there is currently no plan in place for accommodation for those with disabilities. PWD are often kept at home with immediate family members except for those who have access to basic education through the CSO initiatives such as the San Isidro School or Bethesda in Honiara. The Special Development Centre operated by the Red Cross provides a friendly learning environment for children with special needs from ECE to Primary level.

97. The Ministry of Infrastructural Development (MID) have no set policies but as a matter of principle and recognising the need to improve accessibility for PWD persons with disability, MID considers disability in design of buildings, transport infrastructure and transport services (accessibility and connectivity). The government acknowledges the assistance of the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and New Zealand and Australia in sending consultants to undertake disability infrastructure audits.

98. The Government has faced challenges in the provision of mental health care since the closure of the National Psychiatric Unit at the National Referral Hospital in 2012. However, community client rehabilitation, home visits and mental health promotion remain priority initiatives in the provision of mental health services.

## **G. Environment, climate change, mining and disaster risk reduction (Recommendations 81.34, 81.36)**

99. Solomon Islands continue to push for greater efforts to mitigate climate change and its impacts.

100. A Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment was completed in 27 communities in Choiseul Province in 2013 with support from SPC.<sup>43</sup> The assessment prompted plans to adopt an integrated and holistic approach to climate change adaptation at provincial level. The strong presence of logging in the province and increasing pressure on terrestrial and marine ecosystems cause high community vulnerabilities and low adaptive capacity. Seven communities were selected to implement adaptation measures such as protection of water resources; restoration of water catchment areas; increasing water storage capacity; coral reef and mangrove ecosystem management; minimising fishing of key species on the reef; marine and fisheries management planning; increased disaster preparedness, planning for food shortages from disasters and development of emergency procedures for tropical cyclones, flooding or tsunami events.

101. The Government is working towards increasing food security in Ontong Java, Sikaiana (Malaita Province) and Fenualoa (Temotu Province) as part of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC). Community-based Marine Resource Management (CBRM) is an important step in empowering communities to manage their resources and livelihoods. Based on lessons learnt from rural coastal communities in Western and Isabel provinces, CBRM awareness programs are facilitated using a gendered perspective.<sup>44</sup>

102. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/DRM) remains a key priority for the Solomon Islands. A national Risk Resilient Development Working Group was established to support mainstreaming of DRM into government, community and private sector activities and promote resilience at community level.

103. In the past four years, Solomon Islands grappled with a number of natural disasters including, four tropical cyclones, a flash flood, earthquakes, tsunamis, wave surges and landslides. Each of these events has had a crippling effect on the economy, infrastructure and already stretched human and financial resources. For example, at the height of the 2014 flash floods, 4500 people were in evacuation centres in Guadalcanal province; 1110 houses assessed were either destroyed or damaged; 9000 households in Honiara, Guadalcanal and Isabel Provinces lost 75-100 per cent of their food gardens; drinking water remained a concern for an estimated 25000 people.<sup>45</sup> A rapid socio-economic impact assessment estimated that the total cost of damages and losses during the flash floods at damage at SBD 787 million (US\$108 million) or 9.7 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. In 2013, more than 6,000 people were affected, eleven people died and 23 communities substantially damaged following the 8.0 earth-quake and tsunami in Temotu. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami damaged housing, water sources and systems, health clinics, schools, roads, wharves, food gardens and other means of livelihoods such as fishing equipment. The replacement value of all the assets in the Solomon Islands is 3.6 billion USD, of which about 86% represents buildings and 12% represents infrastructure.<sup>46</sup>

## **H. Cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms (Recommendations 79.8, 80.24, 81.3, 81.33, 81.38)**

104. Solomon Islands extended standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders in 2011. The Independent Expert (IE) on the Effects of Foreign Debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights visited the Solomon Islands in February 2011. The report by the IE highlighted the need for better accountability measures to enable government to account for public expenditures. The government noted the lack of human rights frameworks that involves government development strategy and is taking steps to rectify this.

105. The Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Dr. Rashida Manjoo held consultations with Government and CSO stakeholders in March 2012.<sup>47</sup> The report on Violence Against Women also highlighted the need for legislative review and the enactment of laws that address the issue of violence faced by women in Solomon Islands society. The implementation of the Family Protection Act 2014 speaks to this recommendation and is a testament that government is addressing this as a priority area despite it was taking time to progress this.

106. The Special Representative of the SG on Violence Against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais visited the Solomon Islands in May 2015.

107. A common core document was drafted ahead of the CEDAW review in 2013. It has not been updated since and will require Cabinet endorsement before it is finalised.

108. The government recognises the important role of the OHCHR, Commonwealth Secretariat and regional partners such as PIFS and SPC-RRRT in building the capacity of public sector employees and in the preparation of human rights reports to the United Nations. In this regard, training and capacity-building initiatives were undertaken for Government officials preparing for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2013; CEDAW report and constructive dialogue in Geneva 2014; the preparation for the UPR report (2014–2015) and regional Treaty-body training in 2015.

109. Four gender focal points from the MDPAC, MJLA, MCILI and MWYCFA, and representatives from the National Statistics Office attended a regional gender and human rights statistic reporting workshop in Fiji in 2014<sup>48</sup>. A key outcome of the workshop was the development of a Gender Statistics Framework for SI and Pacific countries by SPC. Work on the Gender Statistics Framework is ongoing and is envisaged to be completed in 2015.

## **I. Treaty ratifications and treaty reporting (Recommendations 81.1–13, 81.16–17)**

110. While recognising the importance of treaties, the Government is also aware of the responsibility of creating an enabling environment for the realistic domestication and implementation of the same.

111. Solomon Island ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (C138) in April 2013; the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182) in April 2012; and the 1958 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (C111) in April 2012.

112. The implementation and domestication of the four ratified human rights treaties,<sup>49</sup> is still a work in progress. Following the CEDAW review in 2014, the SIG is taking steps to widely disseminate the concluding observations. The combined second, third and fourth CRC report is awaiting cabinet endorsement. Discussions are underway on the possible ratification of the CRC-Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children and the CRPD.

113. Treaty reporting on CERD and ICESCR is yet to be carried out. In view of this, any further ratification can only be given consideration once these reporting commitments are dealt with.

## **V. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints**

114. The enactment of legislation against domestic violence is an important achievement in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children. Equally notable are

the improvements in the standards of correctional facilities for incarcerated persons, and efforts to combat the impact of climate change using various adaptation methodologies.

115. The continued improvements in the electoral system speak to the government's priorities in strengthening its democratic system. The on-going consultations on the draft federal constitution also highlight the Government's intention to ensure that the views of all Solomon Islanders are taken into account.

116. Challenges remain in the simplification of human rights language so that concepts are understandable and user friendly for communities especially in rural areas. Human, financial and capacity constraints are a hindrance in undertaking human rights focused work (including the domestication of provisions of international treaties) at all levels of society.

117. The availability of up-to-date national statistics to verify progress in the attainment of human rights across the country is a challenge. It is further compounded by the geographical dispersion of the islands and limited access to basic service delivery. SIG acknowledges the need to streamline sources of national data, make it user friendly for the purpose of national reporting and policy-making and is taking steps to develop a national statistics strategy that will address this.

118. Some traditional practices continue to deter the equal participation of all members of society especially women in rural areas where cultural norms determine the perspectives and behaviours of the rural population. However, Solomon Islands have matrilineal societies where women are inherently leaders with authority over their land and resources.

119. The impacts of climate change such as sea level rise have affected inter alia land use rights and food security.

## **VI. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments**

120. The Solomon Islands will continue to undertake reviews of its laws and policies to address the changing needs of its people and environment. These include gender equality, the enhancement of the rights of women and children, economic empowerment, law and order and access to justice. The Government is committed to working with development partners in ensuring that gender mainstreaming is filtered across the public service with identifiable best practices.

121. Priorities in the implementation of the DCCG policy include the NDS review to include SDGs, establishment of an independent Anti-Corruption Commission and the creation of an environment conducive for economic growth and improved service delivery to the most marginalised communities.

122. SIG recognises the need to streamline human rights reporting (UPR and treaty body reporting) and improve inter-ministerial co-ordination of the process. The SIG is committed to the establishment a centralised committee that will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress on human rights issues. The Committee will also be responsible for the submission of human rights reporting obligations through a consultative process in a timely manner. Greater collaboration with the Parliament Foreign Relations Committee is envisaged so that human rights commitments are brought to the attention of legislators for their consideration and action.

## VII. Capacity-building and requests for technical support

123. The Government identifies the need to develop a broad program on human rights which includes training and capacity-building for the public sector. Pivotal to human rights education is the need for regular, accurate statistics, monitoring and evaluation.

124. The SIG also recognises that there are new and emerging issues that relate to the climate change, environment/private sector and human rights which need to be addressed by strengthening the laws/policies and enforcement framework. Continued financial and technical assistance is requested to support national endeavours by aligning donor assistance to national priorities until such time that the country is technically capable of meeting its obligations.

## VIII. Voluntary commitments

125. The Solomon Islands Government has pledged to undertake the following during the course of this second UPR cycle: a) Create a national taskforce that is responsible for all national human rights reporting (including labour and international humanitarian law), monitoring and evaluating state progress on the implementation of these treaties and mechanisms; (b) Incorporate human rights and its implementation and funding needs into the National Development Strategy; (c) Submit Solomon Islands state report on its implementation of ICESCR and CERD; (d) Carry out an assessment on current potential to implement CRPD prior to ratification; (e) Undertake learning and sharing experiences with other Pacific Island countries on human rights including establishment of NHRIs.

## IX. Conclusion

126. The Government of Solomon Islands is committed to ensuring the progressive realisation in the implementation, promotion and protection of Human Rights within the country. Such efforts are undertaken against a backdrop of limited capacities and resource constraints. The SIG acknowledges the support of its development partners (bilateral counterparts, UN agencies, and other international and regional organisations) and calls on the same to continue to assist its endeavours to provide an environment that is conducive to the well-being and betterment of the people of Solomon Islands.

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Provincial Governments, Civil Society Organisations, Government Ministries, Parliament, UN and Development Partners.
- <sup>2</sup> With a specific Terms of Reference and a tentative timeline matched with various activities, to coordinate consultations with relevant stakeholders within government, the civil society, development partners and at provincial level. As the Secretariat, UN Desk in the MFAET, working with legal desk had the responsibility to call meetings and coordinate consultation processes.
- <sup>3</sup> The Ministries Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), Finance and Treasury (MoFT) in particular the National Statistics Office (NSO), Development Planning and Aid Coordination (MDPAC), Home Affairs (MHA) in particular the Registry of Births, Public Solicitor's Office, Law Reform Commission, Ministry of Women, Youth Children and Family Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade. CSO representation- Development Services Exchange (DSE).
- <sup>4</sup> For dissemination to all NGOs and relevant inter-government agencies.
- <sup>5</sup> Government (Line Ministry) consultations were held in May 2015; CSO and UN Agency consultations in July 2015 and Provincial Consultation in August 2015. OHCHR Pacific supported

- government on the CSO consultation.
- <sup>6</sup> UNDP Solomon Islands and OHCHR Pacific facilitated this in partnership with SIG.
- <sup>7</sup> With support from the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC).
- <sup>8</sup> Section 72.
- <sup>9</sup> Section 73.
- <sup>10</sup> Section 76.
- <sup>11</sup> Section 77.
- <sup>12</sup> Section 78.
- <sup>13</sup> For example, in some logging communities and on foreign fishing boats where women young girls and boys are vulnerable.
- <sup>14</sup> Section 5 of the CDF Act 2013.
- <sup>15</sup> Amended the National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act [cap.87].
- <sup>16</sup> Especially those in Isabel and Western Provinces.
- <sup>17</sup> Recommendation 15-27, Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission Review of the Penal Code and Criminal procedure code second interim report-sexual offences 2013, [http://www.lawreform.gov.sb/files/reports/Finalsexual\\_offences\\_report\\_2013\\_v4\\_12\\_June.pdf](http://www.lawreform.gov.sb/files/reports/Finalsexual_offences_report_2013_v4_12_June.pdf)
- <sup>18</sup> This includes sexual harassment policies in MPS Code of Conduct.
- <sup>19</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report predicts that LDCs such as S.I. will be amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.
- <sup>20</sup> A review of the Environment Act, Mine and Minerals Act and related legislation is ongoing.
- <sup>21</sup> MFAET Corporate plan 2014-2017.
- <sup>22</sup> With support from development partners such as UNDP and RAMSI- *Strengthening Law and Justice Project*.
- <sup>23</sup> For example, the Sycamore Tree Restorative Justice Program utilises both psychosocial counselling and traditional (*kastom*) reconciliation ceremonies to support rehabilitation for detainees.
- <sup>24</sup> Rove-Honiara, Auki-Malaita province, Gizo-Western province, Kira Kira-Makira province, Lata-Temotu province and Tetere-Guadalcanal.
- <sup>25</sup> The comprehensive youth justice policy developed by the juvenile justice working group was approved in late 2014 and is the basis for the design and construction of the youth facility.
- <sup>26</sup> 3 principal magistrates (one female) and 2 first class magistrates (one female). Gizo (Western Province) now has a principal magistrate; Makira Ulawa Province now has a principal magistrate; Lata (Temotu province) has a first class magistrate.
- <sup>27</sup> Recommendation 5, Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission Review of the Penal Code and Criminal procedure code second interim report-sexual offences 2013, [http://www.lawreform.gov.sb/files/reports/Finalsexual\\_offences\\_report\\_2013\\_v4\\_12\\_June.pdf](http://www.lawreform.gov.sb/files/reports/Finalsexual_offences_report_2013_v4_12_June.pdf)
- <sup>28</sup> Regina v Gua [2012] SBHC 118
- <sup>29</sup> Rape by a spouse is a ground for divorce under the Islander's Divorce Act.
- <sup>30</sup> The 16 days activism entails a number of activities from awareness raising, drama on SGBV, candle-lit vigils, forums and school speech competitions on VAW related topics.
- <sup>31</sup> CCC, FSC or referrals from Seifples.
- <sup>32</sup> An initiative of the RSIPF and RAMSI project, it offers comprehensive first response services for victim survivors of sexual and gender based violence.
- <sup>33</sup> Taskforce Against Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children (TACSEC).
- <sup>34</sup> Y@W gradually expanded to include the Fruit@Work program where cups of fresh fruit salads are prepared by youths and sold to the public to promote healthy living. A pilot Agriculture@Work initiative in Choiseul promotes organic farming initiatives by youth.
- <sup>35</sup> Case Study on Narrowing the Gaps in Birth Registration: Born Identity Project Solomon Islands, 2014; Ministry of Health, Solomon Islands Registry Office, UNICEF and WHO.
- <sup>36</sup> <http://www.parliament.gov.sb/index.php?q=node/882>
- <sup>37</sup> The current female MP has the portfolio for Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs.
- <sup>38</sup> All are either formally employed or self-employed women living in and around in Honiara.
- <sup>39</sup> Ministries of Justice and Public Service.
- <sup>40</sup> Condoms and the newly introduced jadelle implant to control unwanted pregnancy.
- <sup>41</sup> Draft 2013-2025 SI National Water and Sanitation implementation plan.
- <sup>42</sup> Performance Assessment Framework, 2006-2013, NESU Annual Report 2014, Ministry of Education.

- <sup>43</sup> Choiseul Province Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Report , Solomon Islands, 2013.
- <sup>44</sup> As part of the National Action Plan for the Coral Triangle Initiative.
- <sup>45</sup> Solomon Islands: Flash Floods Situation Report No. 7 (as of 15 May 2014)  
<http://reliefweb.int/report/solomon-islands/solomon-islands-flash-floods-situation-report-no-7-15-may-2014>
- <sup>46</sup> World Bank <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDISASTER/Resources/SolomonIslands.pdf>
- <sup>47</sup> Manjoo, R. (2012) Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, United Nation Human Rights Council, Geneva.
- <sup>48</sup> Organised by the United Nations Statistics Division, SPC, PIFS and the Asia Development Bank.
- <sup>49</sup> Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention on Social and Cultural Rights, and Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.
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