



NEWS

Women launch peace, initiative - 3-Nov-2008

Eight years on since the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 – 'Women, Peace and Security', a Pacific women's media network on '1325' on Friday launched its first policy initiative, which serves as a guide for governments and civil society organisations to assist in the implementation of this ground breaking resolution:

"As a result of the three-monthly interviews each of our regional correspondents in Tonga, Bougainville and Solomon Islands undertook, 288 individual women's voices and experiences are reflected in this policy document," said femLINKPACIFIC Policy and Research Officer, Veena Singh-Bryar, who spoke alongside Helen Hakena of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea and Betty Blake of Tonga at a Media and Policy Roundtable on Friday.

In addition, with our network of rural correspondents and community radio volunteers in Fiji, more than 200 women have spoken of their human security concerns and priorities to femLINKPACIFIC. It is these voices, these priorities, which are reflected in our first policy initiative - UN Security Council resolution 1325, said Singh-Bryar.

The Pacific commemoration of the 8th anniversary of 1325 was hosted by femLINKPACIFIC (Fiji), Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency (Bougainville, PNG), Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili (Tonga) & Vois Blong Mere Solomon (Honiara) in association with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).

The women's media network, has grown from the pilot projects initially supported by the UNIFEM Pacific regional project on Women, Peace and Security, and opportunities to work with international partners such as the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and its members including the International Women's Tribune Centre, the Peacewomen project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Inclusive Security/Sustainable Peace: Women Waging Peace network.

The network is supported by funding from AUSAID.

The femLINKPACIFIC coordinator Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls said, the policy initiative "gives women the opportunity to negotiate their way through a maze of information and communication channels in order to be heard, in order to be recognized, in order to communicate a culture of peace, especially at the political level.

"Last year, members of the regional network affirmed the role and responsibility to continue to promote United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 which they believe is an important component of the collective and on-going work on human rights, and women, peace and human security," said Bhagwan-Rolls.