



For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign, we asked SPC directors and staff to share a few words on the importance of gender equality and the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Here is what they said:

'As a regional organisation, we have a duty to model internally the behaviours and values we uphold and promote with our member states and in the international community.'

Cameron Diver, Deputy Director-General, Pacific Community

The Pacific Community is committed to fostering a working environment where every member of our staff has the opportunity to fulfil their professional aspirations for the benefit of development in the Pacific Islands region. To this end, we have a duty to ensure that people work in a safe and respectful environment. We do not tolerate any form of harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and any language, attitude and behaviour that discriminate against women, men, or members of the LGBT community. Not only does such behaviour affect people's productivity at work, but it has profound impacts on our colleagues' self-esteem and confidence, health and wellbeing. Above all, it would be a violation of their rights.

For many years, SPC has had in place policies that promote equal opportunity in employment, condemn sexual harassment, and promote gender equality and human rights. As a regional organisation, we have a duty to model internally the behaviours and values we uphold and promote with our member states and in the international community. We strive to make the Pacific Community an organisation where respect and tolerance create a safe and secure workplace that recognises the value of all of our staff and the populations we work with. Any expressions of violence, including gender-based violence, are not tolerated in our organisation.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign, which runs every year from 25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – to 10 December – Human Rights Day – calls for the elimination of violence against women and invites everyone to take action against it.