



*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:*

*'Violence against women and girls hinders our development and is the biggest obstacle to our collective wellbeing.'*

*Audrey Aumua, Deputy Director-General, Pacific Community*

Violence against women and girls hinders our development and is the biggest obstacle to our collective wellbeing. We cannot progress if so many of us live in fear, are injured, and are denied basic human rights. Sustainable development in the Pacific cannot happen under these conditions. We all have a role to play in our work, in our communities and in our families to ensure that once and for all we eliminate all causes of violence against women and girls.

These 16 days of activism reminded us that we need to bring a different lens to our work, and reflect on how we can create the conditions to guarantee the safety of women and girls in all their diversity, and ensure they are respected, valued and able to fulfil their aspirations and contribute to the development of their society.

We know that violence against women is not an isolated problem; it has implications for and links to food security, employment, health, disasters, and education. This campaign was an opportunity to reflect on the concrete actions we can take to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and protect the survivors through knowledge generation, advocacy, policy change, improvement of legislation, gender mainstreaming, coordination, and the protection of human rights.

We will do it! Our organisation is already making a difference and will continue making all efforts necessary to eliminate the causes of violence against women.

“You may say I’m a dreamer / but I’m not the only one” – as goes the song. Will you sing it with me? Will you dare to dream of a life free of violence where everybody is respected and cared for in the Pacific?

*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.*