



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:

'We do know that sexual harassment and the threat of violence on board the vessels is a significant obstacle for women's involvement in [the fisheries sector].'

Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division, Pacific Community

For many years, SPC has been promoting women's participation in the fisheries sectors, recognizing the important role that they play. We support the involvement of women in small-scale fisheries and fisheries-related small businesses. We also promote women's participation in fisheries science, monitoring and management.

Women make up roughly only 1 per cent of all fisheries observers in the Pacific; this is clearly a male-dominated field. We do know that sexual harassment and the threat of violence on board the vessels is a significant obstacle for women's involvement in this sector. Too many people still think that a ship is no place for women. As an institution that supports training of fisheries observers we continue to work closely with the Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observers programmes and use training and certification frameworks as an opportunity to raise awareness about sexual harassment and violence against women and promote a working environment that is safe for all observers – women and men.

SPC also works with its partners to strengthen the code of conduct, which includes zero tolerance for sexual harassment and any form of abuse so that women and men can both benefit from this exciting career.

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.