



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 need to continue gathering, analysing and improving data.'

Dr 'Ofa Ketu'u, Director, Statistics for Development Division, Pacific Community

*SPC has been one of the first organisations to provide support to the Pacific Island countries and territories in generating evidence of domestic violence through national statistical surveys on family health and safety. We now have evidence that the prevalence of domestic violence is very high in the Pacific. In five Pacific Island countries (PICs), over 60 per cent of women have experienced violence in their lifetime; and in three PICs, between 25 and 33 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.**

The statistics on domestic violence have been used to mobilise communities, develop policies and programmes, and increase access to services to reduce or eliminate violence against women.

Therefore, we need to continue gathering, analysing and improving data, and we need to work with all ministries to do that, including Health and Justice. SPC reiterates its commitment to support government in the production of gender statistics across the region.

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.

* Statistics from country reports of national studies on women's health and family-based violence conducted from 2000-2015.