



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:

‘SPC works increasingly with its partners to find solutions to make sure women and girls are safe in any circumstances, especially in the aftermath of a disaster.’

Mike Petterson, Director, Geoscience Division, Pacific Community

In natural disasters and their aftermath, women are affected differently and in many cases more severely than men. Although there is limited research globally and in the Pacific, what the research conducted has shown is that an increased number of incidents of violence against women is a documented characteristic of the post-disaster period. Researchers have attributed the increase to heightened stress, alcohol abuse and lapses in law enforcement services.

As policy makers in the Pacific, it is clear we need research in the links between climate change, disaster and its impact on women, particularly in relation to violence against women and girls. Strategies to end violence against women must be included in preparedness and post-disaster management and services. SPC works increasingly with its partners to find solutions to make sure women and girls are safe in any circumstances, especially in the aftermath of a disaster.

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.