



# COMMUNITY RADIO SOUNDBYTES

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A WOMEN-LED PACIFIC COMMUNITY RADIO ALLIANCE

"(We have) Lots of little peacebuilders doing work but to have a Pacific network is central. We can pool resources and respond to conflict, we can address these issues quickly rather than waiting for groups to come in. When we pool resources, we have people on the ground to share resources and information with."

**Ethel Suri, Pacific Conference of Churches, Solomon Islands**

"It's central to have a network of Pacific peacebuilders, sharing ideas and talking about what is happening in our countries." **Lisa Horiwapu, Vois Blong Mere, Solomon Islands**

FemTALK 89FM is a flagship radio station of a Pacific women-led regional media alliance that, since its establishment in 2004, continues to facilitate a vibrant multiracial rural community media network.

In 2016 we were the first Pacific media organisation to join the UNWomen Media Compact reflecting our commitment to progress the commitments in Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action, including our role as the Pacific coordinator of the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP).

FemTALK 89FM Suva remains an important broadcast hub of regional priorities raised by our network partners.

Capitalising on regional network meetings – such as the Regional CSO Forum on Peace and Human Security and the Pacific Feminist Forum, we have been able to produce content for broadcast and podcast, and for our YouTube channel which bridges the gap in content for and about Pacific Island women.

Our community radio approach also strengthens the participation of young women including rural women, disability rights activists and representatives of the LGBT community as media producers and broadcasters.

At the inaugural Pacific Feminist Forum held in Suva, Fiji, as the media partner, we demonstrated the role of our feminist media network and contributed to discussions on the role of communications activism and women's rights in the Pacific advocating on community media practice.

*“We have these MASI - Media Association of Solomon Islands - but MASI is still a patriarchy association...and we had a training last week you know building towards the 16 Days of activism for all media reporter and most of the media reporters they say that they have male editors (so) it's a bit hard for them to push for women's stories in the paper and radio so that's one of the challenges. So that is how I started this Women In Media and Communication in Solomon Islands because we think that, yes we have value; we need to put our stories upfront but in doing so we need to be empowered first so it's a network of women working in media, coming together and it's never been done in the past so it's like empowering, sharing from these experiences, pushing gender equality agenda forward.”*

**Jennifer Wate, West “Are” Are Rokotaniken, Solomon Islands**

*“...the key method of sharing information is the radio (because)... at the end of the day it is means to reach out to communities so... it is an actual, genuine means of reaching out to people... to get the people in the community involved... And you can be part of the knowledge sharing and the voices that are heard.”*

**Mele Mauaivaio, UN Women Samoa**

*“The biggest thing that needs to be done now is to communicate the preparation of the referendum and broadcast it to the people and tell the people explain what (a) referendum is because not a lot of people understand that and also autonomy because people have not understood autonomy enough and also to continue to communicate the information on the peace agreement – what's in the peace agreement that people need to understand.”*

**Sister Lorraine Garasu, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Bougainville**

# Peace on the Airwaves

Part of our contribution towards International Day of Peace in 2016 saw the adoption of “Peace on the Airwaves” as the network theme with our partners focusing on local and national productions:

## Fiji:

26 Suva based civil society groups and leaders as well as women leaders from local groups in our central division network participated in a 2-day broadcast event on femTALK 89FM.

## Bougainville:

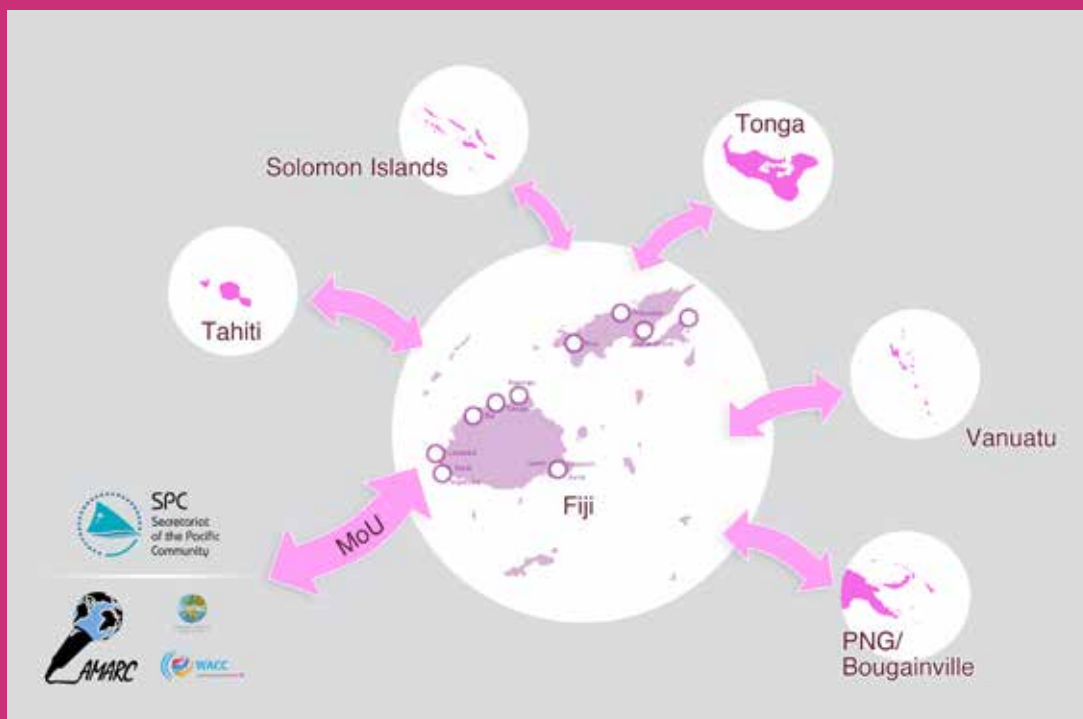
In Port Moresby, two daytime talk-back radio programmes were produced that targeted older and younger listeners via the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and FM100.

## Tonga:

In Nukualofa, the Talitha Project conducted 2 major broadcasting events including a media partnership with Tonga Broadcasting that resulted in a 15-minute video on “Youth and Peace” as well as a 2 hour “Peace on the Airwaves” radio programme titled “Building Blocks for Peace with the Longolongo Youth Choir.”

## Solomon Islands:

“Peace on the Airwaves” was also incorporated into Vois Blong Mere’s weekly programme as part of their team for the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) which featured CSO and police representatives.



In 2017 our women-led community media alliance, with the broadcast and production hub based at femLINKpacific’s Suva community media centre resulted in 8093 community radio broadcast hours, more than 600 women featured in radio programmes in more than 400 radio programmes during district, divisional, national and regional convenings. These women leaders featured in online and print media publications such as Community Radio Times and Pasifika Peace Talanoa. Key recommendations were published in the Women’s Human Security First reports and the 2016 Policy for Peace.

We also produced 24 episodes of the Radio with Pictures series with Fiji Television.

## femTALK89FM

femTALK89FM, as our flagship radio station in Suva, continues to facilitate a vibrant multiracial rural community media network that remains a key tool in localizing Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Pacific.

Our regional media network continues to enable more women to access the media whether they feature in community media initiatives, including our community radio broadcasts, interactive dialogue with government officials, television simulcasts and even television current affairs programmes.

*“(The) media is very male focused, everything being said and pictured is all male, even when a female journalist was there (the story is) often speaking about men.”*

**Losana Derenalagi, femLINKpacific Nadi/Lautoka Convenor**

What women say is the evidence of the progress yet to be made in realising the goals of gender equality, peace and human security and women’s human rights.

Women will continue to take to the airwaves, supported by community radio, to claim their communication rights in our region otherwise women’s rights, peace and human security will remain invisible.

*femLINKpacific is a feminist media organisation founded on fundamental and universally recognized human rights and freedoms, specifically the principle that all persons, especially women, should be treated equally regardless of actual or supposed personal characteristics including (but not limited to) gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, primary language, disability, economic status, family status or opinion*

**Our Mission:** *Our mission is to be a strong and effective feminist community media and policy network recognising and affirming our multi-ethnic and multi-faith founding principles.*

**Our Vision:** *femLINK will be a local, national and regional catalyst for change through the use of accessible media and information, communication and technology as we seek a Pacific Region where there is gender justice, ecological sustainability, peace, freedom, equality and human rights*

**Our Feminist Principles:** *femLINKpacific believes that all persons especially women should be treated equally regardless of actual or supposed personal characteristics including gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, primary language, disability, economic status, family status or opinion*  
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