

Promoting **Access to Justice** for **Women & Girls** in Pacific Island Countries

CGI Commitment to Action:
A Systems Approach to
Combating Violence Against Women & Girls in the **Pacific**



CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

2015 COMMITMENT to ACTION



**GLOBAL INSIGHT
INTERNATIONAL**

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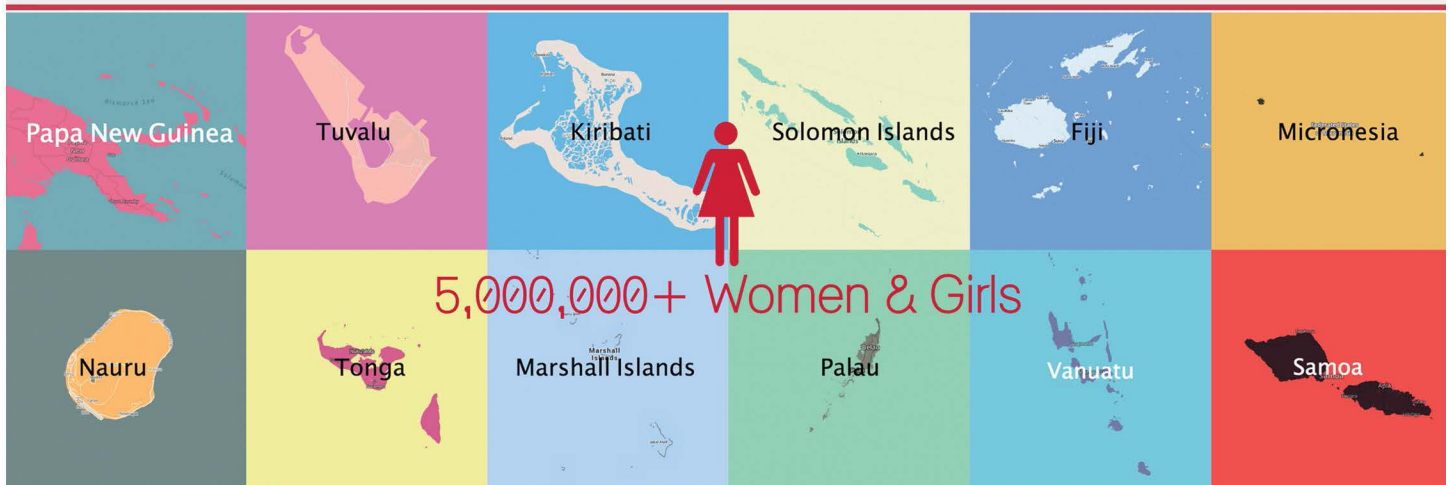
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Women's Rights: Promoting Access to Justice for **Women & Girls** in Pacific Island Countries

The Problem: More than 60% of all women in the Pacific Islands have faced domestic violence or sexual assault.

VAW impacts all aspects of life, from health and safety to economics and education.



Happening Right Now - ICAAD's Commitment to Action at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

ICAAD's access to justice project aims to strengthen the rule of law by restoring accountability, transparency, and consistency to the judiciary.

Our focus is to change the attitudes and behaviors of judges and prosecutors through evidence (data collection and analysis) and train them to recognize how gender stereotypes and cultural norms contribute to low levels of sentencing, thereby denying access to justice for victims/ survivors by perpetuating the cycle of violence.

Using strategic assessments developed collaboratively with a team of 30+ pro bono attorneys, **ICAAD** and **DLA Piper LLP** are engaging in rule of law training, medico-legal training, case law analysis, and building technical expertise of local NGOs to combat violence against women.

Huridocs and faculty and students at **Parsons The New School for Design** are working with **ICAAD** to implement technology and communications solutions to increase awareness, improve data collection, analyze cases, and improve economic empowerment of women.

ICAAD was invited to join the **Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)** in 2014 and once again in 2015, and the partners have come together to make this project a **CGI Commitment to Action**.





“I think that the kind of interventions that are being designed by ICAAD are greatly needed. Its something that we don’t have happening in Fiji...I think that [the interventions] will help to break down the culture of impunity that we have around women accessing justice.”
– Roshika Deo, International Woman of Courage Awardee of the U.S. State Dept and ICAAD Local Consultant



ICAAD Co-Founder Hansdeep Singh with Sec. Hillary Clinton as ICAAD’s Commitment to Action was Recognized at the CGI Annual Meeting 2014



Bryan Miller, ICAAD Board Member with 42nd U.S. President Bill Clinton

“Its disempowerment and they don’t have the dignity, which is very important to a woman, and the right to be heard. And that, the men will have to be educated in that area. It is not the women; it is the men who lack that knowledge and education and are not open to decisions and suggestions from the women.”

Letehi Rakumbau, one of a few iTaukei female chiefs



Project Outputs Thus Far

- 12 strategic assessments on Pacific Island Countries analyzing gender equality
- 940 judicial decisions in 10 countries analyzed for how cultural norms affect sentencing
- 2 rule of law trainings conducted for judges and lawyers at Gender & Law Conferences
- 50+ local, national, regional, and international stakeholders met during field work in Fiji
- 50 impactful interventions identified with local input, 7 selected as high priority
- 40+ attorneys spent 3,000+ hours on research & analysis
- \$1,000,000+ pro bono hours donated

Your Support Leads to Results

ICAAD Conducts Workshop for Lawyers from 12 Pacific Island Countries at Gender and the Law Conference in Fiji

Role of Gender Stereotyping and Cultural Norms on Sentencing

Nadi, Fiji – Lawyers from across the Pacific Region (12+ countries) gathered for a Regional Consultation on Gender and the Law that was hosted by the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM). This brought together over 50 attorneys (including observers) representing various governments (Attorney General's Offices), private practitioners, and civil society.



Regional Consultation on Gender and the Law – Nadi, Fiji Nov. 17-21st

Hansdeep Singh, ICAAD Co-Founder, center bottom row;

Emily Christie, DLA Piper Australia & ICAAD pro bono counsel, bottom row

ICAAD and our pro bono counsel, DLA Piper Australia delivered a presentation and workshop. Being a part of this Consultation gave us the opportunity to engage individuals working within different sectors of society who have the ability to work towards effective implementation of human rights within their respective countries. Securing multi-sectoral participation to assure awareness and impact on gender based violence was a predominant theme throughout the week-long event.



ICAAD / DLA Workshop

As part of our Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action, the workshop focused on the role of cultural norms and gender stereotypes leading to low sentencing decisions in sexual assault and domestic violence cases. Hansdeep Singh of ICAAD, and Emily Christie of DLA Piper presented data on case law analysis of approximately 1,500 cases covering 10

Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

Following the presentation, we ran a comprehensive workshop that placed lawyers in the decision making role of the judge, and asked each country group to apply an analysis to sexual and domestic violence cases based on experiences from their respective jurisdictions.

Additionally, the attendees adopted an [Outcomes Document](#) (organized by a Working Group) that referenced two topics that ICAAD raised during the Consultation, sentencing and pro bono:

“We note that while there is new legislation on family and sexual violence, generally sentencing for domestic violence offences are too low to act as deterrents for perpetrators.”

“Further, we call upon members of the legal profession to develop pro-bono assistance . . . [for] survivors of VAWG as a form of mitigating the barriers of accessing legal services which makes access to justice difficult for most women.”

The importance of the Outcomes Document is that lawyers, some representing government, will take back this aspirational

Document to their respective countries and advocate to implement the suggested changes.



The Many Barriers Women Face



Design Ideation

Stay Tuned for More Updates

- ICAAD will be presenting to lawyers and judges at a South Pacific Lawyer's Association Regional Lawyers Conference in Brisbane, Australia on Sept. 17th.
- ICAAD will be attending and raising awareness about our **Commitment to Action** at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting Sept. 26-29th.
- ICAAD will be presenting to magistrates and lawyers at the Regional Lawyers Conference in November 2015 in Fiji.

Your continuing **Support** ensures that ICAAD can continue evidence-based research and advocacy to Promote Access to Justice for Women and Girls.

Please feel free to contact info@icaadglobal.org for further questions or details, and join our newsletter [here](#).