



Co-conveners of the
3rd Fiji Consultation on Women's Participation in National Democratic Processes
The Women's Forum
3rd – 4th December, 2012.
Venue: Novotel Hotel, Lami.

Telephone: 3312711/8677330

Fax: 3313466

Email : info@fwrp.org.fj

Outcome Statement

1. Fifty-two women leaders representing communities from around Fiji reaffirmed their solidarity and commitment to enhance women's participation and decision making at all levels of Fiji's democratization process at the 3rd Fiji Consultation on Women's Participation in National Democratic Processes (The 3rd Fiji Women's Forum) on the 3rd and 4th of December 2012.
2. Participants asserted women's right to input critically into the upcoming Constituent Assembly and reaffirmed the need for the process to represent Fijian society by ensuring 50% women's representation and appointing a woman as co-chair of the Assembly.
3. The 3rd Women's Forum has identified and unanimously endorsed the names of thirteen women leaders to be submitted as the Forum's representatives to the Constituent Assembly. These women are representative of diverse constituencies, and uphold the qualities of women's leadership we value. They are drawn from a cross-section of communities from around Fiji and are committed to be accountable to the Fiji Women's Forum.
4. The Women's Forum calls on the State to recognize the legitimacy of this list and acknowledge that to exclude any one name would be to deny their constituency the right to be heard at the National level.
5. Since the second Women's Forum in June 2012, and despite the very limited time allocated by the State for civic education and the often disempowering spaces for women in which the consultations were held, Women's Forum representatives have effectively mobilized to deliver over 125 rights based civic education campaigns and programs in communities around Fiji enabling the participation of women in all our diversities, particularly rural women and other minority groups in the Constitutional Consultation process.

6. As a result of the Women's Forum's civic education activities, over 650 individual and group submissions were made, which included submissions advocating for a strengthened Bill of Rights that includes the full range of civic, political, economic, social and cultural rights and for increased women's participation in decision making roles in particular through Temporary Special Measures.
7. The Women's Forum has produced a publication entitled *Balancing the Power: Promoting Women's Political Participation in Fiji through Temporary Special Measures* as an advocacy tool to be used by its representatives in the upcoming National Democratic Processes.
8. The activities undertaken by the Women's Forum in the last six months have been in line with the Four Priority Areas agreed upon by the participants of the inaugural national Women's Forum held from the 10th to the 12th of April 2012 and endorsed on June 6th 2012, which are as follows;
 1. Respect for Human Rights
 2. Defining the role of the security forces
 3. Promotion of women's participation in decision-making and democratization processes including Temporary Special Measures
 4. A rights based, respectful, open and participatory constitution making process

The participants of the 3rd Fiji Women's Forum reaffirmed these Priority Areas and emphasized their interlinked and intersectional nature.

9. The 3rd Fiji Women's Forum made plans for the next six months and beyond in line with the Four Priority Areas, including creative and multi-layered strategies for women's representation and gender sensitization of the Constituent Assembly and political parties.
10. Ongoing activities will include civic education, and build on existing women, peace and security initiatives and amplify gender, economic and ecological justice concerns.
11. The 3rd Fiji Women's Forum has committed to continue to work together in solidarity to represent each of our diverse stakeholder communities, as we aspire together towards a political process which is genuinely democratic for all the people of Fiji.