



MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP
(MSG)
DECLARATION
ON
COMBATING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

PREAMBLE

We the Police Commissioners of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG): Republic of Fiji, Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Republic of Vanuatu and the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia (Representative to the Police Commissioners Conference) at the 5th Police Commissioners Conference (PCC) on 14 May 2015 in Honiara, Solomon Islands

RECALLING the Agreed Principles of Cooperation signed by MSG Leaders on 14 March 1988 in Port Vila, Vanuatu on Arms Control and Disarmament, as well as efforts to reduce international tensions, to limit great-power rivalry, to secure human rights and to secure the peaceful resolution of disputes;

RECALLING further the commitment in the Agreement Establishing the MSG signed on 23 March 2007 in Port Vila, Vanuatu to develop stronger political, security, cultural, social economic and trade cooperation in the Melanesian region to strengthen traditional links between the people and communities of Melanesia;

REAFFIRMING the Melanesian Governments commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2005-2015);

REAFFIRMING further The Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security;

RECONGNIZING high levels of violence against women and girls in the region, and the need for comprehensive and urgent response;

REAFFIRMING the objectives of the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan towards **Political Stability** to ensure lasting peace, security and enduring prosperity; and **Social Equality and Inclusivity** focused on improved social development indicators and active participation by women in all facets of development; and teaching the younger generation values of humility, respect, caring and fear of God;

NOW DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

- (i) Pursue and promote the rights of Families, Women and Children espoused in international and regional conventions;
- (ii) Support the protection of Families, Women and Children against any form of discrimination and against all forms of violence;

- (iii) Take appropriate steps to advance comprehensive legislation to combat domestic and family violence;
- (iv) Take further steps to advance legislation imposing severe penalties for perpetrators of domestic and family violence;
- (v) Support the establishment and maintenance of comprehensive service networks to address domestic and family violence;
- (vi) Promote the human rights of women and children, and breaking the cycle of blame, stigma and negative social norms;
- (vii) Encourage and strengthen cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies to work together in combating domestic and family violence; and
- (viii) Advancing the role of MSG in complementing the work of international and regional partners in combating domestic and family violence.

Approved and Signed on 14 May 2015, in Honiara, Solomon Islands


FOR REPUBLIC OF FIJI

R. J. Groenewald
Commissioner of Police


FOR FRONT DE LIBERATION NATIONALE KANAK ET SOCIALISTE (FLNKS) OF NEW CALEDONIA



FOR THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS



FOR THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU