



UNITED NATIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

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Issue 27, Friday 29 November 2008

Leaders join the fight to say No to Violence against Women and Girls in PNG

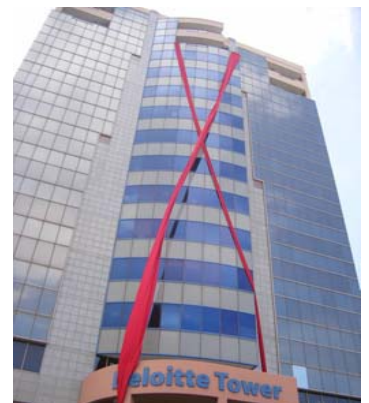
Papua New Guinea joins the rest of the world in their attempts to end Violence against Women and Girls through the launch of the White Ribbon Campaign on Thursday 25 November 2008.

The White Ribbon Campaign is part of what is known as “the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence”. This is an international campaign originating from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, *November 25*, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against women and *December 10*, International Human Rights Day. The White Ribbon Campaign and the World Aids Day are also part of the 16 Days and all lead to the International Human Rights Day under the theme—“*Human Rights for Women – Human Rights for All*”.

UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Jacqueline Badcock said “violence against women and girls negatively affects prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals on poverty, education, gender equality, maternal and child health and halting the spread of HIV and AIDS. Freedom from violence, especially for girls and women, is a core right essential to their ability to lead a productive life”.

During 2006 and 2007, five leaders accepted the roles of Papua New Guinea’s “**White Ribbon Ambassadors.**” This year 2008, more prominent leaders have accepted to join in the role of PNG White ribbon Day Ambassadors. They are Hon. Sam Abal, the Foreign Minister, Chief Ombudsman Mr. Chronox Manek, and the Police Commissioner Mr Gari Baki.

UNHCR Representative, Wallaya Pura said the White Ribbon Day Ambassadors have pledged to do their best in their capacity and power that vested in them to encourage PNG, particularly the men, and all people in the community to take a strong stand on the importance of ending violence against women and children and to eliminate the gender-based violence”.



UP COMING EVENTS

December 9

International Anti-corruption Day

December 10

International Human Rights Day

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Statement by Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA



As we approach the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, violence against women persists as an all too common violation of human rights and human dignity.

Violence against women is the most prevalent and least punished crime in the world. It is also a grave threat to health and well-being. Together with the global financial crisis and climate change, it constitutes a major challenge of our time.

Today, as we commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us unite for human rights and dignity for all. Let us raise our voices and intensify efforts for zero tolerance of violence against girls and women. And let us salute those who are working hard on this important issue. The women, men and young people who actively challenge discrimination and violence against women deserve increased support.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is deeply committed to women’s empowerment, gender equality and reproductive health and rights. Core to these efforts is addressing violence against women and girls, both as a human rights violation and a public health priority.

Today, we call on people and leaders around the world to join forces to make violence against women history. Let us reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women.

This is YOUR weekly update. Please tell us about the progress on “*Delivering as One*”. We would love to hear from you. Send your article ideas or suggestions to elizabeth.turi@undp.org