

Women Disempowerment in Melanesia

Making a Difference

- Acknowledge Women are equal and the same as men;
- use inclusive nomenclature in policy, indicators, legal documents;
- allow women more freedom to decide for themselves.

Plan

- Some facts
 - where women are mostly underrepresented
 - causes of disempowerment
 - ideas for making a difference

Causes of Disempowerment

- Cultural manipulation,
- domestic violence,
- special treatment,
- women interest group influence
- limitations of indicators
- legal limitations
- economic failure

Some Facts

Country	Total Pop'n (m)	Women (m)	Economically Active (%)	Politically Active	In Employment (%)	In Politics
Fiji	0.8	0.4	26	strong	31	na
PNG	7	3.4	66	weak	5	1
SI	0.52	0.26	85	weak	15	1
RV	0.26	0.09	80	weak	39	1

Where Women are Mostly Underrepresented

- Politics
- Formal Employment
- Business
- Education
- National and Community Decision-making

NB: Cf women strong representation in sports, church, advocacy, and NGO work.