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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Pop’n (m)</th>
<th>Women (m)</th>
<th>Economically Active (%)</th>
<th>Politically Active</th>
<th>In Employment (%)</th>
<th>In Politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.26</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>weak</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.09</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>weak</td>
<td>39</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.