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**ICSW 2017 Workshop:**

## **Shrinking Space for the Feminist Movement**

**9AM – 12PM, Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017,**

University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji  
Room 0014-009A+B (cartography lab)

### **AGENDA**

9:00 - 9:05: Welcome: Virisila Buadromo, Co-Director of Urgent Action Fund Asia Pacific, Fiji

9:05 – 9:10: Opening remarks: Aleta Miller, UN Women Representative in Fiji

9:10 – 10:00: Pacific Panel Discussion moderated by Virisila Buadromo:

- Viva Tatawaqa, member of Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA) in Fiji and a member of RESURJ.
- Noelene Nabulivou, works for DIVA for Equality in Fiji as Political Adviser and Management Collective member, associate of DAWN and co-convenor of Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, and Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Savina Nongebatu, Office Manager, previous President (2005-2011) of People with Disabilities in the Solomon Islands (PWDSI), and *Pacific Women* Advisory Board member.
- Cherelle Fruean, Advisor, FRIDA the Young Feminist Fund, Samoa, advocate for young Pacific Women

Virisila will moderate the Pacific Panel with the following elements:

- Intervention of 7 minutes each to answer the questions:
  - o *What civic space restrictions have you faced as a woman human rights defender from an intersectional lens?*

- *How have you fought back and in what ways do you think that solidarity within the feminist movement can counter the restrictions?*
- Questions and comments from participants and answers and reflections from panelists.

10:00 – 10:30: Group work

- 6 – 8 groups will answer the questions:
  - *What civic space restrictions do WHRDs face in your country/region and are they different from what is faced in the Pacific?*
  - *How can the feminist movement fight back against the trend on shrinking space across regions together?*

10:30 – 10:40: Break

10:40 – 10:50: Short report back from groups

10:50 – 11:45: Global panel:

The session starts with a five minute Skype intervention from Azza Soliman, Founder of Center for Egyptian Women’s Legal Assistant who cannot be in Fiji due to a travel ban against her. There will a five minutes Q&A session.

World café style panel:

For the rest of the session, four speakers from Asia, Latin America and Africa will give their interventions from each their table and four groups of participants will then rotate to listen to all of them. The rounds will include 5 minutes speech and 5 minutes questions and answers.

- Louise Dumas, Advocacy Officer, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines Northern Mindanao Sub-Regio, Philippines
- Marianna Belalba, Civic Space Research Officer, CIVICUS Monitor, Venezuela
- Pepe Onziema, Programme Director, Sexual Minorities Uganda SMUG, Uganda
- Teldah Mawarire, CIVICUS Advocacy and Campaigns Coordinator, former journalist, Zimbabwe

11:45 – 12:00: Closing reflections and ways forward moderated by Virisila

# ABOUT THE WORKSHOP: Shrinking Space for the Feminist Movement

## ICSW 2017 Workshop

### Event rationale

Worldwide, space for civil society is shrinking and feminists and women human rights defenders are working hard to defend the work of local activism and social movements. Based on the multiple layers of oppression and restrictions that women human rights defenders, LGBTIQ activists, climate and environmental defenders and others face, the space for feminist movements are shrinking at a rapid rate.

Women human rights defenders and LGBTIQ activists face restrictions because of their challenges to hetero-patriarchal and neoliberal capitalist systems, while their unequal positions in society further place strains on their chances to effectively communicate their needs and demands. Both state and non-state actors attempt silencing through gender-based violence and discrimination; severely limiting their capacity to fully and effectively carry out their important work in already contested, complex and restricted civic spaces.

All feminists and WHRD are at risk of targeting from state and non-state actors, and layers of intersectional oppression and restrictions are applied against WHRDs related to their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sexual characteristics, age, disability, indigeneity, work status, citizenship status, etc. These intersectional challenges are important to discuss and address in order to gain a more thorough understanding of the scope of shrinking space for the feminist movement, and in order to propose effective counter-strategies.

### Event summary & objectives

Speakers and discussions at this workshop will address the interlocking systems of oppression and exclusion faced by feminist movements. Through an examination of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination at all levels through an intersectional lens, this workshop will discuss and propose various strategies to better recognise, amplify and practically support the views and work of women human rights defenders and LGBTIQ activists around the world. This participatory forum provides a critical space to discuss tangible policy and social responses to ensure a conducive environment for feminist social movements by understanding contextual realities, and the intersectional challenges faced and finding effective and sustainable strategies.



16 Days of Activism: 25 November - 10 December

# Campaign: Shrinking Space for the Feminist Movement

## #SheDefends

Defamation, violence, raids, arrests, limitations to funding and killings are just a few of the restrictions the feminist movement face worldwide because they challenge patriarchal systems. Join us in defending their rights as women human rights defenders.



JOIN

On 5 December, feminist activists will meet in Fiji for International Civil Society Week 2017 to address the shrinking space through an intersectional approach. Join the conversation through #SheDefends on social media.



ACT

Take a photo with a sign saying #SheDefends in solidarity with all the women human rights defenders who are facing restrictions worldwide and share it. Or share your story of restrictions on video or in social media posts.



SHARE

Share your photos, questions and inputs to the discussion online on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #SheDefends. We'll showcase these in Fiji and globally on the ICSW Live platform.

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