2018 International Women's Day

Prevailing Facts on Gender Equality & UNESCO's Action in the Pacific
Gender Equality refers to
Equal rights
Equal responsibilities
Equal opportunities
of women and men and girls and boys.

FACT:

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains one of the key barriers to the achievement of gender equality at a global level, and to the achievement of a sustainable peace. — GEAP II

What we do: preventing GBV through research and action

EXAMPLE:

In 2017, UNESCO supported student-led awareness raising activities to address the issue of gender-based violence in the school context in Samoa. To create a participatory space for youth, a capacity building workshop was held to discuss the issue of violence in school and allowed youth to share their perspectives on GBV. Students raised awareness of this social issue, through the production of communication materials including posters, published articles, radio programmes and documentaries.
FACT:
The persistence of stereotypical representations of masculinity and femininity which underlie and reinforce unequal power relations and structures between women and men is a continuing problem. — GEAP II

What we do: promoting positive gender role models

EXAMPLE:

For the first time in the Pacific, UNESCO, in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific and the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), held IPDC Talks on Empowering Sustainable Development with Access to Information.

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Executive Producer-Director of femLINKpacific was the key speaker on SDG 10 – Gender Equality. She emphasized the imbalanced media representations of genders as holding back gender equality. Since 2004, femLINKpacific as the Pacific's first women-led community radio station, has supported diverse women groups to produce media content for a range of media platforms.
Lack of women’s leadership is not only in itself a sign of inequality, but it tends to perpetuate unequal gender relations through a lack of role models for young women, and through the absence of women’s voice and input into the decision-making processes. — GEAP II

**What we do:** supporting empowerment of women leadership

**EXAMPLE:**

In 2017, UNESCO in collaboration with ICHCAP* and the Palau authorities, supported the networking meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) safeguarding - “Youth as Safeguarding Actors for Pacific ICH”.

One of the young Pacific leader participants, Ms. Myjolynne Kim of Chuuk, FSM, is a PhD candidate in Pacific History at the Australian National University. Her research titled “From Silent to Salient: Re-engaging local stories of Chuukese women” focuses on the use of Chuukese local stories, cultural heritage, indigenous languages and epistemologies to incorporate women stories and voices in a gender-inclusive history of Chuuk.

*ICHCAP: The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO*
FACT:
Lack of high-quality gender disaggregated data hinders making evidence-based policy and achieving outcomes for all — women and men, girls and boys. — GEAP II

What we do: supporting and facilitating training capacities to address data gaps on gender disaggregated data

EXAMPLE:
In the Pacific, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) works with the Pacific Community (SPC) and other development partners to assist Pacific Island countries in improving their data collection and international reporting mechanisms. This assistance is core for Pacific countries to enhance their own capacity to develop gender-sensitive education policies and programmes.

Photo: Consultation Group for education data quality assessment in Tuvalu © UNESCO APIA
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In the Pacific, Women and Men work together to enhance Education, preserve Cultural Heritage and share Knowledge and Information for Greater Gender Equality.