



Vanuatu - 102430

Bringing Hope and Healing to Women - *Bible Engagement in Vanuatu*

Overview

The World Day of Prayer celebrations for 2021 will be hosted by Vanuatu with the theme: "Building on a Strong Foundation". Bible Society of the South Pacific, in partnership with World Day of Prayer, seeks to take a holistic approach by advocating and empowering women who are victims of domestic violence.

Awareness workshops and healing sessions on domestic violence will be provided, as well as Scriptures and trauma-healing booklets, enabling them to have the word of God as their source of strength and comfort.

The Need

Too many Pacific women and girls experience violence, even though the call to acknowledge, address and act to end all forms of violence against women and girls is not new. Governments, NGOs and faith-based organisations are working together to close the gap between national commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Statistics reveal that 42% of women in Vanuatu have experience some form of violence. Domestic violence and child abuse are embedded in the gender and power relations that underpin the low status of women and children in Vanuatu.

What happens within the family is seen to be a family matter and community members will not intervene to protect a woman from an abusive husband. Chiefs counsel women to preserve the sanctity of the family unit to maintain family and village harmony. It may be very difficult for women to leave a violent relationship. Married women cannot accumulate personal wealth and men have better rights than women to the children of a marriage.



Project Goals

This project aims to reach women who have experienced some form of gender-based violence from all walks of life.

This project focuses on three main goals which include:

- Trauma healing programs to meet the needs of women who suffer from gender-based violence.
- Violence prevention activities including human rights and legal workshops.
- Helping women acquire reading and writing skills through literacy programs.

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is 60 000, through the three years of the project.

The project aims to bring healing, hope and an increase on awareness of God's Word to women who have been traumatized by gender-based violence, through the Bible Society Trauma Healing program.

As a result of Bible Society raising awareness of gender-based violence, other programs run by faith-based organisations in Vanuatu will be supported. Also, improving legal literacy will elevate and educate women - especially young women - to know their rights within their society.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for a committed leader to coordinate the program on the ground.
- Pray for support from faith-based organisations and agencies who are familiar with the work in this area.
- Pray that the women of Vanuatu will embrace and benefit from the program.