



Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP)

MEDIA RELEASE

PACIFIC POLICE JOIN FORCES FOR WHITE RIBBON DAY 2011

Police services from around the pacific will join together with their communities to recognise White Ribbon Day on Friday the 25th of November 2011.

White Ribbon Day is a time when men around the world speak out on violence against women. Men who support the White Ribbon will not commit violence against women; will not condone others harming women; and will speak out against it.

The Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP) is an initiative of the New Zealand Government which provides New Zealand Police staff to work with the colleagues around the pacific to effectively respond to cases of domestic violence.

PPDVP Programme Manager Cam Ronald said "PPDVP is an ambassador to the pacific on behalf of the NZ White Ribbon Day committee. This ensures that all police members in 18 countries in the pacific have access to White Ribbons and other material such as posters, banners, wrist bands and balloons to help them speak out."

Cam said "This Friday up to 12,000 police members will speak out across the pacific - they will do it in different ways. Many police members, at all levels from Commissioner to Constable, will lead and join marches with other community groups such as women's support groups, churches, schools and government agencies. Some will hold candle light vigils to recognise those who have died in family violence. "

The PPDVP has provided black baseball caps with the White Ribbon logo to most police services and many of the police staff will wear these on the 25th of November, as well as the White Ribbon on their uniforms.

"With the assistance of the New Zealand Aid Programme the PPDVP has been able to provide funds for activities such as school workshops and poetry competitions on violence in Tonga; a domestic violence training workshop in Vanuatu; street activities and fund raising in the Cook Islands; a "Couples Pageant" in Samoa to follow on from a street parade; as well as a range of other local activities in many pacific countries" said Cam.

"We are delighted to see the local police taking a lead and to support them and their communities getting together at this time to speak out against violence."

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