



Political inaction

“My husband broke my nose and hit me with timber over the back of my head. I went to the police to tell them to arrest him—they said they would do it but they didn’t”
Margaret, East Sepik

PNG’s Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, has publicly called for husbands to stop the violence, saying he is ashamed of the high levels in his country.

But his Government has failed to take adequate action. While the formal justice system promises equality, protection and justice it does not deliver it. Law enforcement officials rarely take action when domestic violence is reported to them, and sometimes they are the perpetrators of violence.

The government’s first steps should be to listen to the women of PNG.

Women in PNG want the violence to stop to allow them to live in and with dignity.

They want:

- laws protecting their right to live free from violence
- Effective help from police
- Perpetrators to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law
- Somewhere to go when they flee violence in the home
- Violence prevention education in schools

Positive steps taken

1995 - PNG ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

2002 -The PNG Government introduced the Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children Act. (While the Act covers rape (including marital rape), sexual assault and child sexual exploitation, it does not address violence in the

Positive steps taken.....

family. Its implementation has made it largely ineffective to date.

2009 - Sir Michael Somare was one of the Pacific Island leaders who committed to eradicate sexual and gender based violence at the Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting, in Cairns in August.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Sign our petition or write to the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, expressing your concern that women suffering from violence in the home in Papua New Guinea do not have protection because there are too few shelters available, and urging him to:

- set up at least four new shelters across the country before the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November 2010
- Expand funding for existing private shelters.
- Equip these shelters with a 24-hour hotline and counselling services.
- Introduce and enforce specific domestic violence legislation

Address:

Rt Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
Prime Minister
Morata Haus
P.O.Box 639
Waigani
National Capital District



Above: National flag of Papua New Guinea



Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

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