



**SPC**  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community

## HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME (RRRT)

### Ratification and Implementation of Human Rights Treaties Project



*Pacific Lawyers at a regional lawyers workshop on human rights organised by SPC RRRT in Nadi, Fiji, 2013*

**Location:**

Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

**Duration:**

2012 - 2015

**Goal:**

To support Forum Island countries to ratify, implement and report on the core United Nations human rights conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**Partners:**

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

**Project details:**

Under this Project known as the PIFS-EU Project, SPC RRRT's responsibilities include:

- Advocating and promoting the benefits to Pacific Island countries of acceding to:
  - the core UN human rights conventions,
  - the Rome Statute, and
  - the domestication of human rights standards through national activities and initiatives
- Training and ongoing mentoring of national human rights focal points to enable them to: (i) effectively guide the process of treaty ratification and reporting at national level, and (ii) assist national legislative alignment to international human rights standards
- Producing a Pacific toolkit on the use of statistics for human rights treaty reporting obligations
- Training/providing support to lawyers, magistrates, statistical officers, members of parliament and key implementing agencies, including civil society organisations in the Pacific, on applying/implementing human rights standards
- Supporting the development of national human rights Committees

**Success in numbers:**

8 national human rights consultations were conducted in 8 Pacific Island countries in 2013-2014 resulting in greater understanding of the links between human rights and development and improving capacity for treaty reporting (Kiribati, FSM, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu).

A Pacific toolkit on the use of statistics for human rights treaty reporting is currently being developed.

**Success in words:**

*'The training this week has been useful in enhancing my knowledge in this area and allowing me to view the world through a human rights lens. I look forward to going back to my country and supporting the government in its UPR report due next year and the CRPD and CRC reports that are long overdue'*

**Holly Yamada, Small Island States and Human Rights Officer, Palau, referring to her country's obligations to report under Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 2014**

*'The Pacific toolkit on the use of statistics for human rights reporting will be a great resource to assist us with the collection of relevant data for our reports like the CRPD and CRC reports. It is important for us to capture the real issues in order to help our government understand the realities on the ground. This way we hope that resources will be allocated where the needs are greatest'*

**Mark Eron Vano, Women's Economic Officer, Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs, 2014**



The PIFS-EU Project is funded by European Union (EU) through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). SPC's Human Rights Programme (RRRT) has pioneered human rights training in the Pacific region, working to build a culture of human rights and assisting nation states to commit to, and observe, international human rights standards. RRRT receives core funding from the Australian Government. For more information, visit [www.spc.int/rrrt/](http://www.spc.int/rrrt/)