



LABOUR 22

We are there for you

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN



Labour will advance the rights of WOMEN

We support the voice of women in Fiji for social justice, economic and political empowerment, gender equality, democracy and respect for human rights

*“ There is no limit
to what we, as women,
can accomplish. ”*

Michelle Obama

Women are equal partners with men, and should play a full and active role in the political, economic, cultural and social life of Fiji

We must have an equitable and inclusive society that recognises and supports the aspirations of Women

CHALLENGE

Labour recognizes that feminisation of poverty is a critical social issue as women today comprise the most impoverished sections of our society subject to low pay, gender inequality and discrimination in the workplace.

Increasing numbers of our women are exposed to sexual exploitation, human trafficking, drug abuse with a worrying rise in domestic violence among women and children.



POLICIES

- ✓ Set up a **Gender Equality Commission (GEC)** to:
 - review existing legislation to remove discrimination against women and non binary genders and ensure that new laws firmly represent all genders;
 - deal with complaints in regards to workplace discrimination;
 - work closely with NGOs and engage on the ground with communities
 - ensure that women in the formal and informal sectors are paid their statutory wages and treated fairly in the workplace
 - provide education & training services, especially for women in business and rural women
- ✓ **Women in Commerce** - Labour will strive to increase the economic empowerment of women:
 - provide access to affordable credit and government guarantees for women in productive areas of the economy
 - extend the role of Fiji Agro Marketing (AMA) to provide distribution and marketing for such things as traditional craft, floriculture and horticulture products for the domestic and export markets and to tourist centers
 - provide education and training on financial and business management through government funded GEC
- ✓ **Safety in and outside of the Home** - Government funded education and community programmes, and other preventive measures against exploitation, trafficking and domestic violence; and support for victims.

Set up a domestic violence and child exploitation task force and engage a 'Violence Never' campaign in the media and on the ground, better coordinate police and social services and engage in a holistic approach to addressing this issue
- ✓ **Justice and compassion** - We will ensure that family courts are adequately resourced to effectively deal with reported cases and that there is adequate follow through to ensure compliance; Mediation services will be encouraged as an alternative to the lengthy and adversarial court system
- ✓ **No exploitation in the workplace** - Ensure ALL women employees (for example in factories, shops, offices and as domestic workers) are paid the stipulated statutory wages, treated fairly in the workplace and provided adequate OH&S
- ✓ Labour will improve facilities and support for **women's health**, in particular reproductive health including mammography, pap smears, ante & post-natal care and teenage pregnancy
- ✓ Increased State support and financial assistance for **single parents**
- ✓ Increased State assistance for **women with disabilities**