

TALANOA TOKTOK

Official Publication of the Pacific Conference of Churches

A photograph of a man with dark skin and short hair, wearing a dark shirt. He is speaking into a black microphone held by a hand. He is also holding a smartphone in his other hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing some yellow and white elements.

God sees us

HOW do we see God in women and children?

That was one of the questions asked at the PCC General Assembly in Kanaky (New Caledonia). The response will drive our programmes in 2024.

Youth say no to deep sea mining



Time for new leaders ... young Pacific delegates at the PCC General Assembly in Noumea

Call to action

REGIONAL youth have called for the Pacific Conference of Churches to be propelled towards a future characterised by robust self-determination, unwavering child protection, and responsible stewardship. And they have promised to actively collaborate with the PCC to implement recommendations on the holistic development of member churches.

The youth pre-assembly at the Doneva Agriculture College called for an urgent public re-affirmation of the Pacific church's stand against deep sea mining.

It recommended church accompaniment of churches in Cook Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, New Caledonia and Tonga in their critical engagement with governments to renounce deep sea mining as a viable development pathway.

The young people also called on Pacific

governments and the assembly to denounce immediately the nuclear wastewater dumping operation by Japan at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

There was a call from the youth for the general assembly to call, as a matter of urgency, on the governments of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga to reconsider their ongoing refusal to support the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

And they wanted the Pacific to publicly hold the governments of United Kingdom, United States and France accountable for the unresolved injustices of their nuclear testing particularly in the areas of health, compensation, environmental, displacement, and education.

The resolutions were adopted.

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Under cover ... woman delegate at the PCC assembly

Tuioti stands for women

MASELINA Tuioti has been elected to the PCC Executive Committee.

She will represent the interests of women on the committee for the next five years.

A member of the Methodist Church in Samoa, she was elected at the PCC General Assembly in Noumea..

The alternative representative is Roslyn Kelep of the Presbyterian Church, Vanuatu.

Call for West Papua visit

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights must be given permission to visit West Papua.

This recommendation was adopted by the PCC General Assembly after concerns were raised by women delegates over continued human rights violations in the Indonesian-annexed territory.

The women's pre-assembly at Canala recommended an urgent visit by the UNHCR to monitor military activities for the purpose of transparency and accountability.

They also recommended that all member churches wear red and black on

Wednesdays in solidarity with the self-determination struggle in West Papua, Kanaky, and Maohi Nui.

Also recommended was that the PCC and National Council of Churches take ownership of the World Day of Prayer (Friday 1st week of March) and the Pacific Day of Prayer (Friday 1st week of May) as ecumenical opportunities to pray together as Pacific brothers and sisters.

The PCC will support and mobilize resources for member churches to convene ecumenical gatherings of women leaders to implement the resolutions of the pre-assembly.



See me ... women at a PCC training event produce their own coverage and visibility

My God sees me

HAGAR'S encounter with God in the desert provides inspiration for the PCC activities with women over the next five years.

Pacific churches have been called by the PCC general Assembly to recognize the inherent dignity and worth of women and children, breaking away from traditional roles and expectations.

This theological shift empowers marginalized groups, providing a platform for women and children to actively participate and lead within the church.

The PCC GA Women's Pre-Assembly at Canala recommended the adoption of a declaration which would serve as a transformative force, challenging ingrained norms and fostering a paradigm shift in the regional faith community.

The GA adopted the recommendation.

Women share vision

MORE than 47 women shared their vision for self-determination at the PCC Pre-Assembly for Women at Canala in Kanaky. They also pledged solidarity with Kanaky women in their struggle for independence. This solidarity was not just symbolic; it was fortified by women sharing homes, meals, and worship experiences. The pre-assembly called for persistent challenges and barriers faced by women and children within the church to be addressed in a logical manner.

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