

Annual Report of the  
CitizensøConstitutional Forum Limited  
2008



## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF**

### **Steering Committee**

*Tessa Mackenzie (Chair/Director)*

*Jane Ricketts (Director)*

*Prof. Vijay Naidu (Director)*

*Fr David Arms (Director)*

*Aman Ravindra-Singh*

*Dr Anirudh Singh*

*Noelene Nabulivou*

*Ratu Meli Vesikula*

*Dr Mary Schramm*

*Suruj Mati Nand*

*Seymour Singh*

*Pratap Singh*

*Claire Slatter*

### **International**

*Mosese Waqa*

*Dr Satendra Prasad*

*Arlene Griffen*

*Andrew Carl, Conciliation Resources (Partner)*

### **Staff**

*Executive Director, Rev. Akuila Yabaki*

*Project Manager, Ciaran O'Toole*

*Communication & Advocacy Officer, Mosmi Bhim*

*Community & Field Officer, Sereima Lutubula*

*Researcher, Marie-Pierre Hazera*

*Administration Officer, Nicola King*

*Team Support Officer, Lucrisha Paul*

**Citizens' Constitutional Forum Limited, 25 Berry Road, PO Box 12584, Suva, Fiji Islands**

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

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Akuila Yabaki  
**CCF Chief Executive Officer**

## **Main Activities Undertaken in 2008**

There were two projects on-going through 2008: "Strengthening Fiji's Democracy" and the "Media and Social Justice" project.

### **1. Strengthening Fiji's Democracy Project**

#### **1. Community Based Workshops**

The CCF conducted 14 community based workshops in 2008. The main themes of these workshops were human rights, citizenship, good governance and Fiji's Constitution. These workshops were conducted in various urban and rural communities around Fiji, including Rakiraki, Tavua, Ba and Nadi. The feedback from participants was generally positive and accepting of CCF message, with many participants encouraging CCF to expand its programme. In 2008 the CCF also acquired a full time Community and Field Officer, charged with building CCF's education programme.

#### **2. Constitutional Matters Lecture**

Alison Lazarus, a specialist in peace and reconciliation working for the UNDP, was the keynote speaker for this event. The event was co-hosted by the History/Politics department of USP. There were 100 attendees, including political leaders, professionals, NGOs, academics and tertiary students. The lecture had the effect of raising the topical and important issue of reconciliation processes in Fiji and around the world.

#### **3. CERD Submission**

The CERD submission, completed in 2007 was reviewed by the UN Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination in February 2008. Included in the report produced by the CERD committee in Geneva was the recommendation that anti-racist legislation be introduced in Fiji.

#### **4. Quarterly Newsletter**

In 2008 the CCF published four 8-page quality newsletter publications. These quarterly newsletters enable CCF to update members and supporters on activities, messages, ongoing work and upcoming events.

#### **5. General Advocacy**

Primarily through media releases CCF conducted continuous advocacy on issues affecting Fiji. The predominant themes were:

- I. Supporting efforts towards National Reconciliation and the return to democracy.
- II. Condemning attacks on freedom of the media and judiciary.
- III. Condemning corrupt activity.

#### **6. Drop In-service**

The service contributes through providing individuals with information on how democracy, democratic institutions and human rights relates to their individual issues.

#### **7. Capacity Building for NGOs**

The CCF held a 2 days workshop with local NGOs and community based organizations in Nadi in November 2008. The workshop raised awareness and understanding of Fiji's Constitution, human rights, citizenship and good governance, thus enabling these

organizations to use these concepts in their own work. Participants included organizations based in Lautoka, Ba and Tavua.

### **8. Review of Human Rights Training and School Curriculum**

Through 2008 the CCF education team built a strong relationship with the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education. This enabled the CCF to provide input into the ministry's ongoing civic education curriculum design. Also through this developing partnership the CCF will be engaged in school teacher training in this new curriculum into 2009.

### **9. RRRT Human Rights Advertisements**

To coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights the CCF sponsored a number of RRRT produced advertisements. The advertisements were based on the promotion of religious and ethnic tolerance. The advertisements were broadcast at prime time on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December and over Christmas period. Feedback from the public was very positive.

### **10. Human Rights Day March**

A march was organized by the CCF to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There more than 80 participants with NGOs leaders.

## **2. MEDIA AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

This project commenced in March 2007 and is funded by EED and NZAID. It aims to create a targeted and appropriate communications strategy for CCF to appropriately interact with rural and urban communities in Fiji on overarching human rights and social justice issues.

### **5. VISITORS TO CCF**

1. Mr. Linhua, Chinese Embassy, Suva.
2. Michael Toumee, EED, Bonn, Germany
3. Roy M. Joy, Vanuatu Embassy, Brussels, Belgium
4. Tual F. Chantung, Samoa Embassy, Belgium
5. S.L. Cavuilati, Fiji Embassy, Belgium
6. Lorenz Gonschor, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Activity 15: Script for Radio Plays**

**Activity 16: Budget Workshops**

**Activity 17: Recording of Radio Play**

### **3. CONCLUSION**

### **4. PUBLICATIONS**

7. Richrad Dictus, Resident Rep, UNDP
8. Felicity Heffernan, Supervisor of Election, Election Office, Suva
9. Mele Amarak, South Pacific & Oceanic Council of Trade Unions
10. Hulihua, Chinese Embassy, Suva.
11. Wiepke Vander Goot, European Commission
12. Michael Graf, European Union

**5. CCF STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2008**



