



## Calendar 2019

- 24/6-27/9  
Long Service  
Leave
- 24 August  
enditnow  
Emphasis Day
- 1-3 November  
New Caledonia  
Women's Retreat

Discipleship Ministries  
Women

women.  
[adventistchurch.com](http://adventistchurch.com)

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# enditnow<sup>®</sup>

## Adventists Say No to Violence

by Danijela Schubert

August is an important month for Women's Ministries. We raise our voices in solidarity with all who have suffered any form of violence.

One of the worst forms of violence is that which happens at home — a place which should be "a little heaven on earth, a place where the affections are cultivated ... love, sympathy, and true courtesy to one another" (Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 15). When that place is one of darkness, fighting and abuse, it leaves long-lasting damage that requires life-long repairs, and impacts generations.

Prevention is much better than cure. I invite you to prepare for August 24, the EndItNow emphasis day. Find ways to show our church community and the community in which we live that we stand for peace, love and respect and we are against any form of violence against children, women and men.



## Call to End Violence Against Women & Children in Papua New Guinea

by Pr Kepsie Elodo

Pastor Kepsie Elodo, the president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, has called for an end to increasing violence against women and children in the country.

"Actions or threats likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering are incompatible with biblical ethics and Christian morality," said Pastor Elodo.

"Such actions include, but are not limited to, family violence, rape, female genital mutilation, honour killings and dowry murders, manipulation, denial of personal liberty and coercion ..."

The Adventist Church says, "Let's end it now" — this abuse must stop, Pastor Elodo said.

"The love and compassion that characterised the earthly life of Jesus sets an example for all His followers in their relationships with others," he said. "Christ-like behaviour leaves no room for violence



Pastor Elodo, president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission

against family members or persons outside the family."

Pastor Elodo added that Adventists have committed themselves to being leaders in breaking the cycle of gender-based violence.

# They Are Not Alone



The TANA project, short for They Are Not Alone, started a few years ago, sparked by a lecture from Avondale's Dr Brad Watson and spearheaded by one of the students who listened to the lecture, Linda Ciric. The initial campaign had two goals: to raise \$100,000 through a partnership with ADRA Australia for family violence projects in Papua New Guinea, and to raise awareness of family violence in general.

The project ended in January 2019, but the ripples from it have since evolved and grown.

At the end of May, Agnes Kola, Women's and Family Ministry director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), presented the South Pacific Strongim Femili Strongim Community Partnership proposal. This proposal aims to address gender-based violence in the South Pacific. The draft concept calls for an overall strategy to be developed and implemented over five years and suggests that the following is needed:

1. Prepare policies and procedures relative to family and gender-based violence to help prevent the misuse of current policies and ensure that church leaders know how to respond to incidents of violence and abuse.
2. Prepare an SDA contextualised "Theology of Gender" to establish a clear biblical base for living harmoniously, free from gender-based violence. Further, develop a manual with tools and resources contextualised for use in all countries in the Pacific.
3. Develop college/school curricula and teaching resources on gender and positive relationships that will be

incorporated into courses in training institutions as well as in Pathfinders and Sabbath School.

4. Establish survivor support by providing safe places in strategic locations and ensuring counselling skill development.

5. Educate union, mission and church leadership so they become role models, advocates and champions, to be living examples of love and respect to those of the opposite gender.

6. Continuously engage in research to gain deeper understanding of the issues in various contexts to identify what approaches are most effective.

Furthermore, the aim is to expand this work to Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu.

This is an important but enormous work that needs to be done. We cannot do it alone. We need to join forces with other faith communities and government organisations. When we have strong families, we will have strong communities and strong churches.

Please pray that hearts will be moved to put this proposal into action. Please pray for those who are trailblazing in this area, such as Agnes Kola, Benjamin Asa, Nasoni Lutunaliwa and many others.

To read more about the TANA project check the following pages:

<https://www.adra.org.au/project/they-are-not-alone/>; <https://www.adra.org.au/they-are-not-alone/>







## A Service for the Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults

Adsafe has been established for the purposes of providing a service for the protection of children and vulnerable adults involved in denominational activities across the Division.

Adsafe's principal objectives are to develop and implement prevention and response strategies to mitigate the risk of sexual and physical abuse against children and vulnerable persons. These strategies include prevention approaches through training, policy development and implementation, and screening practices. In responding to disclosures of abuse, Adsafesafe will provide support for survivors of abuse, coordinate investigations into allegations and manage the risk associated with the attendance of church activities by known offenders.

The initial coverage of services provided by Adsafesafe extended to Australia and New Zealand and, when resources are available, will extend to other countries of the Division. The vision is

to make our Church the safest environment for all to experience the love of God.

There is no priority higher than protecting children and other vulnerable people within our care. This is something close to the heart of God (see Matthew 18:6), and cannot be done through wishful thinking or vague aspirations. In order to intentionally protect children and vulnerable people from abuse, and be admitted to membership or maintain membership in the sisterhood of churches, local church congregations must comply with Adsafesafe child safe policies.

The SDA Church has acknowledged that historically we have failed to adequately protect our children and vulnerable people. This has been publicly acknowledged through our joint apology statement from Pr Glenn Townend and Pr Jorge Munoz in March 2018.

Abuse is not just an "oops" moment. It involves choices made by the offender,

starting with distorted/deviant thinking, which then leads the person on a path towards offending behaviour. Ellen White urges us to "not yield one inch to the customs and fashion of this degenerate age, but stand in moral independence, making no compromise with its corrupt and idolatrous practices" (Testimonies of the Church V5 p78). Jesus is very stern when He says, "If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). God is against violence. Let us join forces to EndItNow!

If you would like more information about the work of Adsafesafe and the help they can provide please contact them through the following means:

Website: [adsafe.org.au](http://adsafe.org.au)

Email: [infor@adsafe.org.au](mailto:infor@adsafe.org.au)

Phone: 1800 220 468

## GC Statement On Abuse and Family Violence

Seventh-day Adventists affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and decry all forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and family violence. We recognise the global extent of this problem and the serious, longterm effects upon the lives of all involved. We believe that Christians must respond to abuse and family violence both within the church and in the community. We take seriously reports of abuse and violence and have highlighted these issues for discussion at this international assembly. We believe that to remain indifferent and

unresponsive is to condone, perpetuate and potentially extend such behaviour.

We accept our responsibility to cooperate with other professional services, to listen and care for those suffering from abuse and family violence, to highlight the injustices, and to speak out in defense of victims. We will help persons in need to identify and access the range of available professional services.

When changed attitudes and behaviour open possibilities for forgiveness and new beginnings, we will provide a ministry of reconciliation. We will assist

families in grief over relationships that cannot be restored. We will address the spiritual questions confronting abused persons, seeking to understand the origins of abuse and family violence and developing better ways of preventing the recurring cycle. (This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995.)

God's plans for your eternal impact on this world are beyond your wildest imagination.  
*Christine Caine*