

Intervention from Federated States of Micronesia

CSW Asia Pacific Consultation

Session Four: Addressing online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and discrimination and protecting the rights of women and girls online

Talking points:

- **We recognise that the use of technology is critical in being able to provide services for survivors of gender-based violence in FSM with our small population spread across vast expanses of ocean.** Technology has great potential for increasing access and appropriateness of services, for example access to information online about support services, the use of telephone counselling services to reach survivors in remote and isolated locations and the facilitation of access to justice by electronic access to court systems or safety orders. As an example of this, we recently held online training for our court staff on gender within the judicial system and addressing gender-based violence. We also opened our first telephone counselling services in the state of Chuuk during COVID-19.
- **There is a need to create and sustain more online safe spaces for women, and in particular for adolescent girls and young women.** This should mean greater safety in shared spaces such as social media and also dedicated safe spaces for women and girls- that supports prevention of gender-based violence.
- **In the wake of COVID-19 and with increasing mobility in our region there is a need for increased cooperation to overcome the complexity in addressing technology facilitated GBV that occurs across borders.** This includes intimate partner violence that is facilitated through technological means.
- **There is a need for an increased legislative action and development of good practice on addressing coercive control facilitated by technology.** In technology-facilitated coercive control, various forms of technology are used to extend the perpetrator's ability to monitor and maintain surveillance of the survivor. Technology also provides avenues to harass, threaten and shame survivors, manipulate their social relationships and ensure compliance with demands. We acknowledge the established link between coercive control and intimate partner homicide.