

# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

NOVEMBER 25, 2021



## "Standing together to eliminate all forms of Violence in the extractive communities"

As we join the international community in launching the 16 Days of Activism, and specifically commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, I'd like to reaffirm Papua New Guinea Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative's (PNGEITI) commitment to promoting gender equality, inclusive and an equitable extractive industry, free from harm and violence.

As indicated in the PNGEITI 2019 Report (published July 2021), the extractive sector remains the biggest contributor to the country's GDP (28% of GDP). Social expenditures targeted at sectors such as education and health amount to K444 million.

The economic and social benefits of the industry received by the citizens, is evident. However, the industry, known to be male dominated, increases the vulnerability of women in communities where the mines are situated. From reports cited, the prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in PNG is among the highest in the world.

Sadly, in recent years, there have been several incidences and reports of women subjected to exploitation, harassment, and abuse associated with mining activities. The experiences can leave lifelong psychosocial scars on survivors and negative social and economic impacts.

To address these challenges, some of our stakeholders in the extractive sector, support and work directly with community organisations focusing on preventing and responding to GBV. A member of the Civil Society, CIMC-Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) has an outstanding programme dedicated to eliminating GBV in PNG.

PNGEITI's governing body, the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) has a non-discrimination and zero tolerance on violence at the heart of its core values as captured in the 2017 MSG Code of Conduct:

"A PNGEITI MSG Member will respect the dignity and private lives of others and exercise proper authority and good judgement [...]"

"A PNGEITI MSG Member shall not engage in or facilitate any discriminatory or harassing behaviour directed toward anyone [...]"

To uphold its values, the PNGEITI and its stakeholders must increase their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women in their workplace and the communities they serve.

With its efforts to combat GBV and raise awareness among its members and its communities, the PNGEITI is developing training materials about GBV and how to mitigate the risks. It plans to disseminate the material through its civil society network.

To commemorate the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, let us be reminded on our commitment to continue our efforts in creating a safer community for our industry, free from Violence.

LUCAS ALKAN  
HEAD OF PNGEITI NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

