

The concept for Peace Journalism training is to design a working training with senior Journalist, approximately 15 invited, from across the sector to consider peace as a perspective for reporting and writing.

*The UN's Peacebuilding Fund Programme is supporting national stakeholders to sustain peace by creating an inclusive space for dialogues, supporting implementation of Solomon Islands' national peace policies, and engaging women and youth in peace activities*

*If the approach could be under the banner of UN - Do No Harm*

- Each media outlet introduces themselves in some way. What could you ask them to do?
- Understand rights as a journalist in this environment
- Learn about building relationships to access information.
- Ethical reporting – what is this? How does culture play a role?
- Gender equality issues in SI
- Plan subject matter to pre-empt the next six months as the country transitions from RAMSI care mid next year.
  - We can ask RAMSI to present on a subject – what angle do you want.
  - We can get Police Commissioner also or Deputy who is a Solomon Islander.
- Review the concept of investigative journalism What does this mean? What is story telling? How do you be investigative?
- Refocus the media demands of government and donors – remaining impartial
- Maybe review both newspapers published stories from last month or material relating to 'peace' to critique.
- Sustainable Development Goal 16

I am sure there are many good exercises or activities that you both have learned over the years that inform and assist journalists.

If asked to write a story on X – could we see different approaches to that. Maybe they must write our editorials for the next month – 1 per week on Peace issues.

What material could be brought from Fiji, NZ or from around the world that illustrates peace writing.

We can make up display boards or do what is required to assist.

What do journalists need – English lessons, scholarships to newspapers in NZ Aust Fiji etc. Perhaps a journalist like yourself specifically working with local teams on peace issues brought in from overseas?

Sustainable Development Goal 16



[http://www.sdg16.org/map/?layer=press\\_freedom&layerType=indicator&zoom=3&lat=-12.733623790265804&lng=142.24474913720266](http://www.sdg16.org/map/?layer=press_freedom&layerType=indicator&zoom=3&lat=-12.733623790265804&lng=142.24474913720266)

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.10.3 Confirmed cases of journalist liked in previous calendar year

16.10.4 Freedom of the Press index score

100 Worst – Solomon Island number 27

**Possible Speakers – short commentary**

Azusa Kubota – UNDP Country Manager

UNDP and peace

Agus Wandu – Peace Building Manager

Peace Building Initiative in SI

Deputy Police Commissioner

Post RAMSI Current RSIPF

RAMSI Media

Director Ministry National Reconciliation, Unity and Peace - Views on Peace in Media

Venue can be here – great conference room with all audio facilities. Easy for us to provide food etc.

ANZ Haus

Kukum Highway, Renadi

UN Joint Office Number +677 27446

If you arrived Sunday 13 Nov. Had Monday 14 Nov to set up requirements. Then I need to understand how we proceed from here.

Tuesday class time all day? May not be possible ½ day

Wednesday class time all day? May not be possible ½ day

Thursday - News room time

Friday – class time ½ day?

How else could this work, just must start to think of the logistics around this.

**Who is coming - Who will not work in this group of invitees? Must be a journalist?**

Newspaper

Radio

Social Media

Some govt – journalists

Media Assoc





United Nations  
Peacebuilding

Sustaining Peace

***Journalism Workshop UNPBF***  
***Peace and Development***

**16 – 21 November 2016, Honiara, Solomon Islands**

**Wednesday 16 November 2016**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 08.30         | Welcome by Mr Agus Wandu, Project Manager UNPBF     |
|               | Prayer and Blessing                                 |
| 08.45 – 09.00 | Remarks by Sir Paul Tovua, Elder                    |
| 0.900 – 09.10 | Opening by Azusa Kubota, UNDP Country Manager       |
| 09.10 – 09.20 | Team Photo  |
| 09.20 – 09.45 | Morning Tea /Coffee                                 |
| 09.45 –       |   |
| – 11.40       | SWOT Type analysis and discussion to plan a roadmap |
|               | Personal Testimonies                                |
| 11.40 – 1 pm  | Culture hour; how culture affects behaviour         |
|               | Community Policing Model – RSIPF/NZ Police Adviser  |
|               | Lunch   |
|               | Facilitators leave to work live in newsroom         |

### **Thursday 17 November 2016**

- 8.30 – 9.30 am      Speaker RSIPF; questions and answers, discussion
- 9.35 – 10.30      The Tensions  
Speaker Johnson Honimae, RAMSI
- 10.30 am – 10.40      Morning Tea
- 10.40 am – 11.40      Peacebuilding  
Speaker Ministry of Women - Family Protection Act
- 11.40 am – 1.00      Workshop
- Lunch
- Facilitators work live in newsrooms

### **Friday 18 November 2016**

- 08.30 – 9.30      Speaker; Vois Blong Mare questions and answers, discussion
- 09.35 – 10.30      Press freedom
- 10.30 – 10.40      Morning Tea
- 10.40 – 11.40      Journalism and politics
- 11.40 – 1pm      Workshop
- Lunch
- Facilitators work live in newsrooms

**SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER**  
**Morning: Work live in newsrooms**

**SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER**  
**Evening: Facilitators work with subs in newsrooms**

**MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER**  
**Facilitators work live in newsrooms**

# MASI

## Discussion Paper – A vision for its future

January 2017

**Part A: Industry Consultation – the issues**

**Part B: Draft Objectives and Initiatives  
– for discussion**

Information has been sourced from over 50 individual meetings and 27 survey responses (all percentages quoted relate only to written survey)

## **Part A: Industry Consultation**

### **1. Skills attainment, writing standards, quality of journalism**

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The quality of journalism in the Solomon Islands is an issue – (96% of respondents)  
MASI has a role to help facilitate/advocate for an increased number of scholarships – (42%)

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- Standard of writing and investigative journalism skills is not up to standard
- Frustration on the quality of education provided to journalists

### **1. Skills attainment, writing standards, quality of journalism**

Three options

- a) A significant, but not universal view, was that MASI should provide basic English writing, journalist and investigative journalism training
- b) Alternatively, MASI's advocate to improve the quality of training provided to journalists
- c) Option - MASI limit its role to providing only a few critical areas or topics (for example – training around code of ethics)



## 2. Career structures, job design and staff progression

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Career structures and staff welfare was identified as an issue – (46% of respondents)

Pay and related remuneration should be reviewed, improved and standardised – (23%)

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- Lack of transparency for workers operating within the industry - consistent career structures across the different media organisations
- Concern regarding pay structures, minimum standards relating to job design
- Frustration on the high turnover rates within the industry, and the ability to retain highly skilled and more mature Journalists

## 3. Media protection and stakeholder management

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Lack of protection of media personal and media organisations was identified as an inhibiting factor for the industry to do its job properly– (73% of respondents)

MASI to take a leadership role in promoting the role of media in the community – (54%)

Stakeholder management on behalf of the industry was identified as a role for MASI – (42%)

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- Concern over the level of intimidation and verbal abuse directed at the media
- BOTH organisations and its employees are not protected under the law
- Stakeholder management - managing expectations and stronger relationships
- Stronger relationship with bodies external to the Solomon Islands
  - sharing of information / draw on external support / advocate change

#### 4. Code of ethics – Regulator for industry and stakeholders

A code of ethics for the industry is an important function to be delivered by MASI – (50% of respondents)

- MASI has a code of ethics but the code is not in circulation and the industry is not aware of its existence. It is voluntary and not enforceable
- Industry supports a code of ethics be delivered and enforced by MASI
- The industry supported the “regulator” role for MASI be extended to monitor behaviour directed at the media industry from those outside the industry

#### 5. Media in protecting human rights and FOI

The role of media in the promotion and protection of human rights including Freedom of Information – (50% of respondents)

- MASI’s constitutions has included an objective around media in promoting human rights and access to information through freedom of information laws
- Industry believe MASI has a role in promoting the views of, and providing information to, many disadvantaged groups within society
  - persons located in provincial or isolated areas
  - women – gender equality

## 6. Share information, collaboration and networking

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MASI has a role to facilitate networking events and industry awards – (62% of respondents)

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- Two perspectives
  - a) MASI's role is to facilitate and organizing regular networking and social events, media awards and forums
  
  - b) Industry is small and vibrant and collaboration already exists with journalists regularly sharing information - it is not the most critical issue facing the industry
  
- MASI has an obligation to deliver the Prime Ministers Media scholarship

## 7. MASI as an independent and sustainable organisation

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MASI to be developed as an independent body representing the needs of industry – (46% of respondents)

MASI to provide leadership across the industry and the Solomon Islands community – (35%)

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- The media industry identified that it is important that MASI establish itself as an independent body, with its own staff and office space so that it can deliver what industry requires

## **PART B: DRAFT Objectives and Initiatives**

### **1. Ensure the industry achieves the highest standards of journalistic ethics and reporting**

- a. Ensure members abide by the MASI code of conduct and other relevant policies**
  - i. update code of ethics and develop process for enforcement
  - ii. establish and promote a Child Protection Policy (recently endorsed) and a Social Media policy

### **b. Media operate at the highest standards of reporting**

- i. MASI Industry training policy
  - ii. lobby existing training providers to improve their standards
  - iii. advocate for a greater number of scholarships
- c. Work with media organisation to improve the quality of their services**

- i. Quality control mechanisms within news-rooms
- ii. Transfer of knowledge processes
- iii. Link media personnel to other training providers (non media training)

**2. The promotion, observance and protection of human rights and liberties including the protection of the rights to information and the maintenance of media freedoms in the Solomon Islands**

- a. To provide the public a venue to discuss issues affecting society (government, the public and civil society)
  - i. MASI Press Club to facilitate greater dialogue
  - ii. MASI communications strategy on key human rights issues
  - iii. MASI segment on SIBC – meet the Editors
  - iv. facilitate greater information flows between the different Provinces

**b. To promote effective governance, transparency and accountability in the Solomon Islands through and with the media**

- i. advocacy for strengthening legislative / legal protection: namely, freedom of information; protection of whistleblowers; and an anti-corruption ombudsman
- ii. seek advice on the current levels of protection afforded to journalists under existing legislation
- iii. advocate for a media ombudsman for the Solomon Islands
- iv. work with leaders within the Ministry's and with MPs to improve their understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding the media

**3. Facilitate and strengthen positive relations between the media industry and the public, community groups, government and non-government organisations, industry and international stakeholders**

**a. Improve relationships between the media and domestic stakeholders**

- i. Series of networking events and an annual media awards (SICCI?)
- ii. Engage key stakeholders (eg Ministry of Police) re working with media

**b. Improve relationships between the media and international stakeholders**

- i. strengthen its relationship with bodies including PINA, ACP Press Club and other regional bodies

**4. Promote the interests and improve the welfare and rights of individuals and organisations within the media industry**

**a. Establish professional career paths across the industry**

- i. develop and implement formal career structure for its members
- ii. support the industry establish standard employment contracts that be made available across the industry

**b. MASI to develop relevant employee related policies for the industry**

- i. develop a trauma policy for the industry

**5. Establish MASI as a strong, forthright, independent and viable organisation**

- i. strategy - develop a business plan and a model to sustainably resource itself
- ii. structure - restructure the Board and update the constitution to enable the recruitment of specialist's skills and other governance options - eg a Industry Leaders Advisory Group
- iii. operations - build a financially viable organisation including recruiting a CEO and support staff, develop a budget and sponsors and develop a logo and website

**DISCUSSION**





**MASI (1)**  
Bruce Levett

## **Guests**

### **Day One – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Opening – Azusa Kubota – UNDP

Agus Wandu – UNDP

RSIPF – Solomon Sisimia, Director of National Community Policing Unit

Darren Folau – PPF RAMSI

### **Day Two – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov**

RSIPF - Madame Jaunita Matanga or Police Commissioner

Ministry Women – Pauline Soaki

RAMSI - Johnson Honimae

### **Day Three – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Rose Martin – Youth at Work

Vois Blong Mere – Josephine Teakani

Agus Wandu – UNPBF

**Facilitators (2)**

Jale Moala  
Netani Rika

**Island Sun (1)**

Priestley Habru

**Solomon Star (4)**

Ofani Eremae  
Ednal Palmer  
Eddie Osifelo  
Charles K

**Independent (1)**

Merinda Valley

**SIBC (2)**

Rickson Bau  
Gina Kekea

**Sunday Isles (3)**

Stephen Favobo  
Mavis Podokolo  
Simon Tuvake

**Vois Blong Mare (5)**

Josephine Teakeni  
Lisa Horiwapu  
Stella Waioha  
Alison Hou  
Katherine Sanga

**Catholic Communications (2)**

Joe Vidiki  
Camillus Kole

**Solomon Island Business Magazine (1)**

Robert Liroga

**Royal Solomon Island Police (3)**

PC Spink Mahuta  
PC Desmond Rave  
Darren Folau (RAMSI PPF)

**RAMSI (1)**

Johnson Honimae

## Review and Way Forward for Journalists and Media Initiatives

### Observations

- Journalists were engaged in the idea and process of peace building journalism, borne out by attendance on every day.
- The three half days allowed journalists to continue in their duties and attend.
- For the first time senior journalists had useful time and space to network.
- The facilitator's Pacific origin created a comfortable space despite concern that it did not bring a truly global experience.
- Capable journalists are operating but the environment hinders journalism standards.
- Surprisingly many still carry lingering memories of the tension struggle journalists endured.
- The formula and range of speakers provided the content themes for discussion around peace building and conflict.
- A little support goes a long way.

### Issues

- The industry sector in Solomon Islands is small
- Regulatory body to support, train, protect and grow the media sector has stumbled, its reestablishment will compliment change.
- MASI Association has completed a review which they will present to UNDP in mid January
- Entry, education and holding young journalists within an outlet is failing after 18 months. Succession planning is limited.
- Industry qualifications usually are acquired here and the standard within country is low – a frustration for the industry and the graduates.
- English proficiency is a factor.
- Training, training and more training is needed. Former programmes have made little cut through. It is also not sustainable to train at the rate required on turnover.

### Future

- The workshop timing provided both UNDP, media and other actors a chance to discuss openly.
- Jale Maola will return as a VSA NZ volunteer to the Island Sun paper in February. He may be on assignment between 3 and 6 months. Negotiations are taking place to allow him to work alongside other media outlets. Another NZ volunteer will be based at Barava FM for 3 months early next year.
- MASI review and recommendations will shape future planning. A senior manager for the Association must be sought by mid-year. It also aims to be industry funded maintaining independence. Naturally candidates like RAMSI, Johnson Honimae fall into this category.
- UN Peace building should continue to provide linkages between the media and actors in peacebuilding. It remains difficult from a planning perspective for this project to entertain further training as it is not in line with our goals. However the concept of either mentors or short term placements into Australia or New Zealand should be explored further.

## **Recommendations from Report on Workshop**

1. Follow-up training for reporters on analysis of Press Releases, reading between the lines, covering multiple aspects of an issue and going beyond the rhetoric to identify root causes of conflict and possible solutions. This will be achieved through lectures, individual assignments, mentoring and should be done in the next two-three months.
2. Strengthening of newsroom capacities through mentoring and accompaniment of senior journalists, news directors and editors in order to provide the industry with strong leadership through times of crisis. This will be achieved through lectures, one-on-one discussions, daily mentoring on newsroom and resource management. This can be done over the next two-three months in tandem with journalists' training.
3. Collaboration and partnerships are key to better resource management and a united media. Differences between media outlets will allow unscrupulous businesspeople and politicians to exert undue influence upon and control of the messages which affect the lives of common people. This can be done over the next four to six months by creating dialogue – through MASI – between news managers and owners.
4. Building a strong Code of Ethics for individual newsrooms and teaching journalists the value of an independent, responsible media. Given the prevalence of the Wantok System and its ability to affect instability, this must be done over the next four to six months.
5. Remedial English classes for younger reporters are absolutely necessary to allow better understanding of Press Releases, facilitate better questions at media conferences and generally raise the level of news reports. This is as an area best suited to MASI and individual newsrooms and will require time off or after-hours training on site. SINU may not be the best solution for this training which must take place from around February 2017.

**JOURNALISM PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**  
**Honiara, Solomon Islands**  
**November 16-18, 2016**

**Executive Summary**

IN 2000, factional fighting over political differences led to the overthrow of a democratically elected government in the Solomon Islands<sup>1</sup>.

This was the culmination of events which started in 1998 and have generally been blamed on ethnic differences<sup>2</sup> between the people of Guadalcanal and Malaita.

The breakdown in law and order led to a situation in which journalists were threatened – sometimes at gunpoint – and unable to carry out their daily assignments without fear of reprisals from rebel groups and, often, their own relatives<sup>3</sup>.

Despite the introduction of a foreign peacekeeping and assistance mission and an international attempt to rebuild government and governance structures, the media industry has remained relatively without help<sup>4</sup>.

Newsrooms are small, often understaffed, journalists have had little or no training and exposure<sup>5</sup> and the media is often at the mercy of advertisers or politicians who use reporters for their own interests.

Generally, the media fraternity in the Solomon Islands supports the concept of good-governance and democracy but faces challenges from government, industry and politicians who want to control the message.

A self-governing society, by definition, needs to make its own decisions. It cannot do that without hard information, leavened with an open exchange of views<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report – Volume 1

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Solomon Islands journalist

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Interview with Solomon Islands editors

<sup>6</sup> Krinsky, George A, The Role of the Media in Democracy – United States Information Agency lecture

Abraham Lincoln articulated this concept most succinctly when he said: "Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe<sup>7</sup>."

The challenge for the Solomon Islands media is how to report on the changes to the security landscape with the withdrawal of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands in June 2017 without generating fear and misgivings.

There is also a need to address – through the media - the underlying societal issues in the country which were the real cause of the tensions and political unrest in order to build a more resilient nation.

These were the basic considerations taken into account prior to designing a training opportunity for journalists under the auspices of the UNDP Country Office.

Two trainers – former Fiji Times editors Jale Moala<sup>8</sup> and Netani Rika<sup>9</sup> – were identified as resource people with knowledge of local and regional issues who could relate to Solomon Island journalists.

The training was designed to be informative and draw from the experience of both trainers in covering conflict situations and peace efforts in Fiji between 1987, 2000 and 2006.<sup>10</sup>

At the same time it was necessary to allow the local journalists to talk about their experiences at home, identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the Solomon Islands media industry and plan a way forward.

Key to this training was journalists learning from the trainers and each other to design a locally relevant solution to covering issues which have the potential to cause future tensions or be used as rallying points for self-serving individuals.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Worked as a New Zealand VSA at Island Sun newspaper

<sup>9</sup> Publisher of Islands Business (regional magazine) and Solomon Airlines In-flight publication

<sup>10</sup> Moala covered the 1987 coup in Fiji while Rika covered the 2006 coup. Both covered the 2000 coup and the period of peacebuilding between 1987 and 1999.

The trainers took into account the Sustainable Development Goals and attempted to specifically address SDG 5<sup>11</sup> and SDG 10<sup>12</sup> through sessions on gender-based violence and youth issues, while SDG16<sup>13</sup> was the focus of presentations by the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and the Media Association of the Solomon Islands.

Undercutting all these was SDG17<sup>14</sup> which was addressed through encouraging the media industry to collaborate internally through sharing of resources and externally through partnerships with industry, government and civil society.

The learning process included a combination of testimonies (rather than straightforward lectures), group discussions and key speakers to ensure a holistic, practical and meaningful training.

## **Overview**

FROM the outset it was evident that the workshop would be a very fluid event as participants began to become fully engaged with the facilitators, guest speakers and each other.

The initial approach of Journalism for Peace (with an emphasis on conflict resolution) took a trajectory towards Journalism in Peacetime (focussing on how to address issues which cause conflict) but this transition was smooth and appreciated by all involved.

After the opening ceremony, introductions and outline of the three-day programme, the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force presented an analysis of the main causes of crime in the country. It also gave an overview of the RAMSI<sup>15</sup> drawdown and police efforts to provide national security after the departure of external peacekeepers.

There was lively, inclusive discussion on how the media in the Solomon Islands addressed the potential instability caused by the withdrawal of RAMSI.

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<sup>11</sup> Gender Equality

<sup>12</sup> Reduce Inequalities

<sup>13</sup> Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

<sup>14</sup> Partnership and Goals

<sup>15</sup> Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands

One issue of concern raised during the discussion was that the media continued to report as if conflict had not ended and there was a need to focus on the stability which existed due to the success of various police, NGO and state initiatives<sup>16</sup>.

Another critical point raised was the need to find home-grown solutions to address through the media the root causes of conflict.

The police continued their engagement on Day Two through a presentation by Deputy Commissioner Juanita Matanga, who offered to collaborate with the media to address serious social issues<sup>17</sup> which had the potential to cause communal instability.

Deputy Commissioner Matanga addressed the possibility of legislation to control irresponsible use of social media. At the heart of her message was the concern that the public saw the RSIPF as a one-stop shop for all problems.

As an example, Matanga said public criticism was often levelled at police if there was a slow response to land disputes, however, little attention was paid by the media to the underlying corruption which led to the violence in the first place. Police also realised the need to strengthen their Communications Unit in order to ensure quick dissemination of information and handling of media inquiries.

At this point discussions turned towards how addressing society's ills could lay a platform for national development and stability.

A presentation from RAMSI began with personal reflections by Johnson Honimae and his experiences during the Tensions of 2000. This was a deeply emotional experience for Honimae and the participants, leading to discussions on how careful, analytical reporting was essential in times of conflict and peace.

One intention of the workshop was to ascertain how reporting on gender issues could be used to encourage peace and stability in times of crisis and normalcy.

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<sup>16</sup> These include United Nations programmes and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

<sup>17</sup> Youth issues, drugs and alcohol, family violence



The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs raised concerns that it was difficult to disseminate information on the new Family Protection Act 2014, Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls and the Family, due to the unavailability of funds for media activities.

After discussing the provisions of the Act it was generally agreed that there was a need for more reporting on women's issues as well as a need for additional women in newsrooms in order to provide coverage of issues critical to the sustainability of peace.

Two important issues emanating from this discussion were: The need for the church to take a decisive role in the elimination of gender-based violence and the failure of society to recognise gay and lesbian rights in the Solomon Islands.

The MASI (Media Association of the Solomon Islands) presentation followed the Ministry of Women and centred around attempts to set up a platform for training journalists as well as regulating the industry.

Participants heard about consultations between the association, government, industry and journalists.

The final day of the workshop focussed mainly on the efforts of youth and women's organisations – particularly Youth@Work and Vois Blo Mere – to ensure peace and stability by looking at and solving issues which lead to crime or can be manipulated by politicians and terrorists.

Central to discussions which followed these presentations was the failure of the media to provide widespread coverage of the activities of these organisations. There was also a failure of the organisations to interact with and harness the media as a partner in covering projects which address initiatives which create employment or aim to bring about sustainable peace.

## Participants

THE workshop participants<sup>18</sup> were drawn from across the media spectrum in the Solomon Islands in an effort to ensure maximum coverage and widen the scope of peace journalism in the country.

Media outlets which sent participants were Island Sun, Solomons Business Magazine, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Commission, Solomon Star, the Sunday Isles and Vois Blo Mere<sup>19</sup>.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Honiara and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force sent representatives from their communications units.

Involvement of the church media is critical in the promotion of peace journalism as faith-based organisations continue to have a huge influence on the community.

It is important to note that the representative of the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation left after morning tea on Day One and did not return. This was unfortunate as the workshop discussions showed a multitude of ways in which the State could engage the media to ensure national stability through the wider dissemination of critical information through the media.

A number of collaborative efforts were explored by participants<sup>20</sup> and should be monitored to measure the effectiveness of the network-building aspect of this training.

Overall, attendance fluctuated between a maximum of 19 attendees on Day One and 17 attendees on Day Two. Given the small size of newsrooms and the general lack of human resources, it would be reasonable to suggest that attendance could have dropped significantly over the course of the workshop.

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<sup>18</sup> List in Annexures

<sup>19</sup> Local NGO which focusses on women's issues through radio broadcast and community outreach

<sup>20</sup> Most media outlets offered additional space or time for police to address concerns to the community. Police offered wider scope in issues covered in monthly press conferences

Those who discontinued their attendance had previous engagements which had been scheduled before the workshop<sup>21</sup> and could not change.

Feedback from participants acknowledged the practicality of the workshop, the utility of key learning experiences and the collaborative opportunities provided by the event.<sup>22</sup>

While attendees acknowledged a wide range of learning experiences, there was general acknowledgement of the need to use journalism to address core societal issues<sup>23</sup> which – if not tackled – could lead to instability if manipulated by politicians or special interest groups.

## **The Sessions**

### **Day 1, Session 1 – Royal Solomon Islands Police Force**

THE community policing model was presented by the RSIPF which drew attention to its efforts to use a non-confrontational approach to conflict situations as much as possible.

Officers have instead used tactics and strategies to ensure peaceful resolution to conflict without using weapons such as tear gas and rubber bullets.

The session identified the four major drivers of crime in the Solomon Islands<sup>24</sup> as well as apparent public wariness of the impending withdrawal of RAMSI.

There was discussion about the manipulation of messages during the Rwanda Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust in Nazi Germany, relating these incidents to the control of the media and messaging in the Solomon Islands in 2000.

Participants believed a number of individuals were waiting on the sideline to cause disruptions once RAMSI left the Solomon Islands and these attempts could be thwarted by news coverage and analysis.

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<sup>21</sup> Solomon Business Magazine and Island Sun editors

<sup>22</sup> Refer to Feedback section of report

<sup>23</sup> Participants noted unemployment, land grievances and corruption as potential destabilising issues

<sup>24</sup> Youth problems, drugs and alcohol, land issues, family violence

There was genuine concern from participants that the workshop would focus on conflict reporting and the desire was expressed for activities – and the national media – to move towards creating a stronger country.

One participant called on colleagues to focus media attention on the coverage of developments made since the conflict and the creation of a new, positive Solomon Islands.

On the issue of culture, participants spoke of the difficulty they faced during the 2000 tension because every journalist was seen first by others for their ethnicity. In this way they became linked to the conflict through no fault of their own and were victimised – sometimes by both sides.

A participant reflected it was impossible to separate who you are from the conflict in such a small country.

On the way forward it was agreed through group discussion that the media must look at ways to open dialogue on key national issues in order to educate people and, hopefully, defuse potentially explosive situations.

This, however, must start as a proactive activity during peace time.

In times of conflict - the participants suggested – it would be critical to look at the reasons behind the clashes rather than reporting only on the conflict itself.

Learning points: Creating a road map for peace, analysis of Solomon Islands situation, how culture affects behaviour of journalists

Discussion points: Causes of conflicts, the RAMSI drawdown, media as a tool for peace, working in conflict situations, local solutions, control of the message, objectivity.

Recommendations: Build public confidence in RAMSI through media coverage of positive police action, collaboration between media and the police in the provision of content and space, use of words which do not produce violence.

- Day 1, Session 2

THIS session involved the trainers sharing individual experiences from covering the conflict in Fiji from 1987, 2000 and 2006. This was an intensely personal experience for trainers and participants.

Discussions continued on the need for a local approach to conflict resolution through peace writing or journalism and the emphasis that the process must be driven by the locals with assistance and guidance from the trainers.

This approach was appreciated by the local participants and a noticeable shift was noted from this point on.

Participants became more involved, discussions were meaningful and intense and there was obvious local ownership and input from this stage.

Learning points: Personal cost of conflict, independence and objectivity

Discussion points: Can I separate myself from the conflict when my people are involved? Can I be truly independent and objective? How do I address the root cause rather than the major players of a conflict.

Recommendation: That future training should always involve locally relevant content and - where possible - local trainers and speakers

## **Day 2, Session 1: Deputy Commissioner Juanita Matanga**

DEPUTY Commissioner Matanga acknowledged the role of the media as one of most important communication tools in society and its place at the forefront of successful police work.

She reflected on the 16 per cent increase to the police budget which still did not give the RSIPF sufficient funds to fully implement plans for operational activities after RAMSI's departure in 2017.

Matanga spoke of public criticism of the force, the lack of resources, the need to implement strong internal policies to eradicate corruption and develop strong leadership.

Much of the criticism of the force was due to rising crime levels which were caused by unemployment and reaction to corrupt activities – factors beyond the control of the RSIPF.

Of concern to the RSIPF was the failure of a number of organs of state to carry out their responsibilities – particularly in the area of extractive industry<sup>25</sup> – in educating the public, defusing tension through proactive awareness raising campaigns and stopping corrupt practices.

Climate change and disaster-induced relocation were emerging problems identified by the RSIPF for which it was ill-prepared due to force infrastructure and budgetary complaints.

However, Matanga warned that the RSIPF would be expected to deal with these issues, which had the potential to cause increased criminal activities and political instability if they were not addressed.

She called for a collaborative effort between the police and media in the interest of the nation to discuss how these issues could be addressed.

Discussion ensued on the use of social media by some sections of the community to deliberately disseminate misinformation and create conflict.

Participants agreed that social media could be an important source of information but it must be treated with caution before it formed part of a news report. This included the normal media approach of triangulating sources of information and acting responsibly.

The concept of Do No Harm was discussed and reiterated several times during this session.

There was some discussion on legislation to eradicate abuse of social media to disseminate potentially harmful messages but this was seen as a secondary solution. The primary solution, it was agreed, was responsible coverage.

Addressing internal police matters, participants raised their concerns that the RSIPF was not always able to respond to queries – especially at

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<sup>25</sup> Mining, fisheries and logging

weekends – and the commissioner sometimes did not address issues of importance to journalists during his weekly press conference.

The Deputy Commissioner agreed that the matters were valid and undertook to address them immediately.

Learning points: Do No Harm concept, peacebuilding, crime prevention through early dissemination of information, instability caused by the media, responsible reporting, assessing information before it become news, media as a tool for peace.

Discussion points: Causes of crime, media as an agent for crime prevention, the need for increased collaboration between police and the media to create a stable society.

Recommendations: Journalists take the Do No Harm approach in the newsroom, all social media messages must be verified before being reproduced, politicians' claims should be verified before publication, police provide a 24/7 service.

- Day 2, Session 2: Johnson Honimae, RAMSI

THIS session dwelt on the personal experience of Honimae during the 2000 Tension and the difficulties of preparing the news when only one side of a story is available.

Honimae spoke of the need for consistent fact checking and counter-checking even under the most trying circumstances, including being restricted to a particular geographical location or due to the absence of communication with sources.

He asked whether Solomon Islands journalists had encouraged the war or could have done better and what action they would have taken if communications with other sources had been possible.

During discussions Honimae admitted that he had been traumatised by the events to an extent that became evident only after the conflict.

Participants suggested they had become more careful and sceptical about covering issues related to the tension in a post-conflict country and expressed the desire to expose the roots of the tensions.

This included coverage of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission activities and implementation of its recommendations along with the progress made by RAMSI and the RSIPF.

The evident gap in the skills of younger and older journalists were also discussed. Suggestions were made that older journalists use their experience to train younger colleagues on conflict reporting.

The inadequacy of SINU (Solomon Islands National University) programmes was raised along with the need for external trainers to help journalists prepare to report in a manner which ensured stability and peace.

One matter of concern was the need for peace messages to reach remote communities and the lack of infrastructure to allow such an initiative.

The SIBC reported that it plans to erect transmitters in the provinces to allow greater reach<sup>26</sup> and public awareness before, during and after elections in order to mitigate against any misinformation.

Learning points: Conflict and trauma, ethical coverage in a conflict situation

Discussion points: Lack of media resources for full coverage, preparation of journalists for election coverage and conflict, weak SINU Journalism Programme, importance of covering reconciliation initiatives

Recommendations: Need for a trauma management policy through MASI, need for collaborative use of media resources in the provinces, provision of external trainers, strengthening of SINU

- Day 2, Session 3: Pauline Soaki, Director – Ministry of Women

THIS presentation was to highlight the Family Protection Act 2014 and its potential to reduce one of the underlying causes of conflict in the society – violence within the home and between relatives.

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<sup>26</sup> SIBC proposal is currently before Cabinet



The Act criminalises domestic violence, outlines ways to support victims/survivors, puts in place procedures for agencies dealing with family violence, stops violent actions through police notice/protection order and outlines offences and penalties.

Concerns raised by the ministry with regards the media included the use of the media of unrelated pictures with domestic violence stories, incorrect use of terms (rape instead of sexual abuse) and the justification of rape by offering excuses for perpetrators.

Discussions focussed on the need to remove personal bias, apply gender analysis and perspective, learn terminology and labels, take rights-based approaches to family violence.

Media participants admitted the media was responsible in part for conflict creating through identifying or demonising people in news reports.

Discussion turned to the need for more women in newsroom management positions<sup>27</sup> as well as creating male advocates and champions for gender issues.

One matter of concern for the trainers and MASI was the fact that LGBTI are not discussed publicly in the Solomon Islands because gay lifestyles are illegal under local law.

Participants were reluctant to discuss the inclusion of LGBTI coverage in their newspapers and radio stations.

The Ministry of Women acknowledged the presence of the LGBTI community and efforts of NGOs to address their plight. The ministry is looking at ways to work on minority rights.

MASI will also look at LGBTI issues as its constitution allows the inclusion of minorities.

During this session there was an apparent reliance of local media on communications budgets allocated to ministries in order to pay for space in newspapers or time on radio. It was suggested that the media engage

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<sup>27</sup> Solomon Islands has one woman MP in 50, two female Permanent Secretaries in 24 and less than two per cent membership on boards of State-owned entities

local companies as sponsors for messages on gender issues or extend their coverage to this critical area as a service to the community and as a corporate responsibility.<sup>28</sup>

Learning points: The Family Protection Act 2014, contribution of family-based violence to national instability.

Discussion points: Gender inclusivity, media bias, media responsibility, LGBTI discrimination.

Recommendations: Including church communications in disseminating peace initiatives, creating male advocates and champions for gender issues.

- Day 2, Session 4: Bruce Levett, Advisor MASI

THIS session was a late inclusion to brief participants on the progress made on the revival of MASI.

Six issues have been raised during discussions between MASI and industry representatives. These are – skills (quality of product), career structure and plan, external pressure on negative stories (which affects type of stories written), MASI key policies (association activities), stakeholders (administration staff, sales, printers), press club (to drive the agenda).

Participants heard that the advisor's brief was to rebuild MASI, make sure relationships with stakeholders were clear and clean and talk to as many people as many times as possible.

A written survey will be conducted to elicit views on the basis that the more views gathered, the stronger MASI will be. There will also be a review of governance systems.

The first six months of the MASI review will look at consultation, a public business plan, constitution (two exist) integrity, honour and independence, ethics, freedom of information, governance transparency and accountability, protection of human rights, voice for minorities.

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<sup>28</sup> Facilitator's suggestion to the group

Participants were reminded of the media's role under the MASI constitution, to address human rights and minorities. MASI's code of ethics includes a child protection mechanism.

Feedback so far on the review has been about MASI as a two-way regulator – of media and State irregularities.

Levett spoke of the possibility of Masi as an advocate, regulator and training coordinator.

Local participants spoke of their desire to see MASI as an independent organisation with a strong training focus.

It was agreed that conversations must take place to determine the future of MASI and its role.

Learning points: The role of MASI, media responsibilities in establishing a national association.

Discussion points: The future role of MASI, the need for regulatory mechanisms

Recommendations: That journalists take an active part in discussions on MASI's future and its role, that MASI coordinates training for all journalists and engages SINU on preparation of students for industry placements.

### **Day 3, Session 1: Rose Martin, Coordinator, Youth@Work**

THIS session dwelt on the positive action taken by the Youth@Work NGO to improve employment opportunities among young people in the Solomon Islands.

Key to the presentation was a plea to the media to help spread the news about inroads made by the organisation to engage young people in useful activities and prepare them for gainful employment.

Participants heard that in order for youth to stay out of trouble, they needed to be engaged with society in activities which gave back to the community.

Discussions looked at how stories about young people and their involvement in drugs and violence often perpetuated negative views of young people. There was an acceptance that while these issues should not be ignored, the inclusion of positive stories in the mainstream media could have a balancing effect and empower youths.

At the end of the session a number of media organisations expressed the desire to explore the possibility of providing work placements for members of the Youth@Work programme.

Learning points: The role of Youth@Work, problems facing young people, youth and conflict.

Discussion points: Unemployment, low literacy rates, youth involvement in crime, avenues of collaboration towards building a stable community.

Recommendations: That the media engage more with Youth@Work to cover positive stories, that NGOs engage more and approach the media with positive change stories for publication or broadcast.

- Day 3, Session 2: Josephine - Vois Blo Mere

A WOMEN'S NGO formed after the 2000 Tension to specifically cover issues not in mainstream media, Vois Blo Mere, has lead calls for peace for the last 16 years.

It has been a leader in calling for a neutral force to oversee conflict resolution and it coordinated peace activities for post-conflict development.

Vois Blo Mere's challenge has been trying to have its activities covered in the local media, despite being recognised internationally as a leader in peacebuilding and conflict resolution

The presentation looked at the role of the organisation between 2000-2016 and the role of women in peace.

A link was suggested between peace in the home and peace in the country with women. Discussion then followed on the need to rethink the concept of peace.

It was suggested that the absence of food, the inability to pay school fees or medicine for the sick often led to conflict in the home and these issues needed to be addressed first to ensure a peaceful community.

The dissatisfaction of Vois Blo Mere with sections of the media community which did not cover their activities was noted. During discussions, Vois Blo Mere was encouraged to become pro-active and take their positive stories and women leaders directly to the media if they wanted additional coverage.

Discussion then turned to various forms of collaboration between NGOs or the State and media organisations in order to build peaceful communities.

Learning points: The role of women in peacebuilding, knowledge of Vois Blo Mere.

Discussion points: Concepts of peace, media role in promoting women's peace activities.

Recommendations: That the media review peace concepts to fit in with local context, that NGOs take their messages to the media instead of waiting to be approached.

- Day 3, Session 3: The future of journalism and Digital Media

The trainers ended the day with two sessions, one on the Future of Journalism and the other on Social Media and Citizen Journalism. Two videos were shown.

Discussions centred on the development of journalism tools, how the digital platform has changed newsrooms and the way news is gathered and distributed, and how social media has given journalism new scope.

Journalists and newsrooms of the Solomon Islands were challenged to look to the future and be aware of the increasing role "citizens" are playing as public watchdog through the use of social media like Facebook and Twitter, and how social media has become the citizens' main weapon in times of conflict.

Learning points: Social media is only one of the tools available to journalists and should be used wisely.

Discussion points: Information posed on social media are by individuals reacting to situations therefore the information may not be factual, the use of Facebook and Twitter, for example, as a tool to reach out to a wider audience; social media can cause legal issues if information is not checked.

Recommendations: More training on journalism and social media.

### **Newsroom discussions**

AT the end of the workshop the facilitators noted that there had been general agreement on the lack of skilled journalists in newsrooms.

Informal discussions with media and community leaders showed that there was concern that strong newsroom structures were essential in analysing news tips and reporting on issues in a manner which would promote peace.

It was decided to interview key newsroom managers to assess the skills of reporters, the ability of SINU to prepare candidates for the workplace and the training needs of media outlets.

Four journalists were interviewed and their answers have been recorded in brief.

SIBC: Senior Producer Georgina Kekea

**Need for further training:** High

**Training format required:** Newsroom one-on-one mentoring and coaching; workshops

**Are trainers available locally:** Yes, but they lack the confidence to lead so need opportunities to act as workshop co-facilitators. There is still a need for overseas input, especially regionally. There is a need to train trainers to promote continuity

**Key obstacles to news gathering efforts:** Lack of experience, cultural pressures, (for SIBC) political pressures; poor English language skills

**Confidence in SINU's journalism programme:** No confidence

**Other comments:** Social media presents big challenges in terms of ensuring information being disseminated is factual and balanced; journalists should act as media police and correct misinformation on social media and continue peacebuilding; journalists and broadcasters should behave well and be responsible citizens; journalist should build trust in the community

MASI: Delavera Leni, President (News Editor, SIBC)

**Need for further training:** High

**Training format required:** Newsroom one-on-one coaching; overseas attachment

**Can locals act as trainers:** Yes. Masi has a group of local trainers but overseas input is still important. There is a need for more consultation with MASI when training is being planned so there can be more local input

**Biggest obstacle to news gathering:** Lack of experience, cultural pressures. Low wages prevent newsrooms from retaining staff, especially those with university qualifications; poor English language skills

**Confidence in SINU journalism programme:** No confidence

**Other comments:** SIBC has moved away from hiring journalism graduates from USP and UPNG because they have not been able to retain them; as SIBC news editor, he has come under huge pressures from politicians, with one of them kicking and damaging his office door; a lot of legal threats and gagging writs

Island Sun Newspaper, Priestly Habru, Editor

**Need for further training:** High

**Training format required:** Newsroom one-on-one coaching; workshops; short overseas attachment for editors and newsroom leaders

**Can locals act as trainers:** Maybe. There is a need for overseas input, especially from regional journalists who understand the culture and the people.

**Biggest obstacle to news gathering:** Lack of experience on the newsroom floor; weak newsroom leadership lines and communication

**Confidence in SINU journalism programme:** No confidence

**Other comments:** Training programmes should include all areas of the newsroom, like sub-editing and design; low wages is an obstacle to retaining good reporters and sub-editors; need to train trainers; need more training in the area of defamation

Solomon Star Newspaper: Ofani Eremae, Editor

**Need for further training:** High, for both sub-editors and reporters

**Training format required:** Newsroom one-on-one coaching; workshops; overseas attachment

**Can locals act as trainers:** Yes, but with the assistance of overseas trainers and facilitators.

**Biggest obstacle to news gathering:** Lack of experience; poor English language skills

**Confidence in SINU journalism programme:** "Absolutely" no confidence

**Other comments:** Political stories sell newspapers; need to train journalists to report positive news and promote unity; need to train reporters on how to cover elections because election coverage do increase sales; the recent peacebuilding workshop was an eye opener; conflicts force newsrooms to adopt survival journalism to keep the organisation going and save jobs.



## **UNDP Interventions**

SPACE was provided throughout the sessions for UNDP Country Office to make interventions. UN Social Cohesion and Peace-building Advisor Agus Wandu was present during a number of sessions and had the opportunity to interact with participants and make pertinent comments and suggestions.

This included the opportunity to clarify public misconceptions of the role of the UN agencies in the process of supporting the Solomon Islands in its journey from conflict to peace and beyond.

Participants were particularly drawn by Wandu's personal reflections.

Overall, one point which was teased out of these one-on-one sessions with UNDP Country Office staff was that the Solomon Islands must find economic development models suitable to its people and which will enable not only sustainability but self-belief and independence.

Participants discussed the possibility of returning to traditional methods of forestry, fisheries and natural resource use which ensure better distribution of wealth at village and family level.

There was a realisation that the Western model of development is often harmful to the rural people and the media can be a useful tool in allowing dialogue which eventually leads to new models for growth and sustainability.

## **Conclusion**

THE most glaring conclusion is that the journalists of the Solomon Islands realise the challenges which face the industry and their country in the transition towards a society without RAMSI.

Throughout the training and in conversations with media leaders, there was a general plea for support for young journalists in the area of training and for newsroom managers in capacity building.

There is also need for technical support in website and electronic news platforms, additional transmitter sites for broadcasting of key messages into remote areas and specific training on investigative skills, interviewing techniques and analysis.

As noted previously, news operations in the Solomon Islands are small, privately-owned and generally lack financial resources.

There is a need to build the capacity of the media industry ahead of the drawdown of RAMSI. This could be done through mentoring and support programmes provided by external partners over the period leading up to, during and after the withdrawal.

It is obvious that local journalists know what to do. In some cases, however, moral support from an external observer will make the difference in independent coverage and the collapse of ethical reporting.

Solomon Islands journalism faces exciting times. Its senior people are capable and passionate about their country and profession. But a sustainable democracy will be dependent upon the ability of these key people to maintain their independence through trying times.

They will need every possible manner of assistance to achieve their dreams of a free, independent, and responsible media in a truly democratic Solomon Islands.

## **Recommendations**

WHILE there were many valid recommendations from the training,<sup>29</sup> there was a need to distil these into a practical, reasoned list which can be used to immediately strengthen individual and industry-wide capabilities.

The importance of the recommendations may vary according to individuals and companies.

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<sup>29</sup> Refer individual session recommendations

1. Follow-up training for reporters on analysis of Press Releases, reading between the lines, covering multiple aspects of an issue and going beyond the rhetoric to identify root causes of conflict and possible solutions. This will be achieved through lectures, individual assignments, mentoring and should be done in the next two-three months.
2. Strengthening of newsroom capacities through mentoring and accompaniment of senior journalists, news directors and editors in order to provide the industry with strong leadership through times of crisis. This will be achieved through lectures, one-on-one discussions, daily mentoring on newsroom and resource management. This can be done over the next two-three months in tandem with journalists' training.
3. Collaboration and partnerships are key to better resource management and a united media. Differences between media outlets will allow unscrupulous businesspeople and politicians to exert undue influence upon and control of the messages which affect the lives of common people. This can be done over the next four to six months by creating dialogue – through MASI – between news managers and owners.
4. Building a strong Code of Ethics for individual newsrooms and teaching journalists the value of an independent, responsible media. Given the prevalence of the Wantok System<sup>30</sup> and its ability to affect instability, this must be done over the next four to six months.
5. Remedial English classes for younger reporters are absolutely necessary to allow better understanding of Press Releases, facilitate better questions at media conferences and generally raise the level of news reports. This is an area best suited to MASI and individual newsrooms and will require time off or after-hours training on site. SINU may not be the best<sup>31</sup> solution for this training which must take place from around February 2017.

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<sup>30</sup> SI Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report

<sup>31</sup> Interviews with news managers

## **Participant responses**

QUESTIONNAIRES were distributed at the end of the workshop and there were 14 respondents.

Participants responded that they felt the facilitators' delivery and content of the training was excellent (10), good (3), while one respondent believed the facilitation was poor.

Generally the facilitators' knowledge, open discussion, relevant topics, clear and concise lessons, interactive sessions and opportunity to learn from other participants were seen as the strengths of the training.<sup>32</sup>

The venue received similarly good comments. Seven respondents rated the facilities as excellent while five said good, one average and one poor.

There was some concern over seating arrangements and the need for writing space. This can be addressed in future sessions.

### Participant responses

Respondents: 14

Name (optional) 1/14

Things I learned or liked

Clear and concise

Helpful

Important as it will help me write peace journalism

Youth@work and Ministry of Women presentation was relevant 3

Learned the importance of journalism in peace

Learn to build networks and establish good relationships 3

Highly interactive

Citizens Journalism 2

Collaboration 2

Informative

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<sup>32</sup> Full responses in Annex

Practical

Encouraging

Open-minded discussions 3

Give more perspective to peace-based issues

Reflect on how past tension affected us

RAMSI 2

Censorship/self-censorship 3

Peace journalism 3

Positive reporting of emerging issues

Peace and development

Media experiences in conflict situation

Role of policing in peace building – capability, leadership, crime prevention strategy 2

Balanced media releases

External speakers

Food

Involved

Ethics

Common understanding

Conflict coverage

Learn from experienced journalists

Subjects or material that should not have been covered or were missing

More workshops from experts

Should have more time for youths

Should be more on other materials

Political journalism

Presentations not focussed, time not limited

Strategies on covering sensitive issues in a culturally appropriate way to avoid causing harm/conflict

Speakers should have been asked to concentrate on peacebuilding, not marketing their organisation and work

Human security v State or Territorial Security

Law aspect of issues from lawyers point of view

Gender equality

Ethnic crisis

Culture

Peace journalism

Homegrown ideas

Meeting room

Excellent 7

Good 5

Average 1

Poor 1

Comment

Space is good but seating arrangements could have been better

Tables needed for writing notes

Circular seating space allows equal space

Great indeed

Facilitators – knowledge and tone of workshop

Excellent 10

Good 3

Average 1

Poor

Comment

Workshop really helpful. New ideas I learned are appreciated.

Presentations were clear and informative.

Good to learn from experienced journalists like Jale and Netani

Excellent presentation by resource persons.

Great knowledge/wisdom from two facilitators

Good to review and organise another training

Learning our context of peace journalism as to other peace concepts

Include social media in future events

Like the peace building journalism idea

Constructive

Interesting

## **Solomon Islands News Outlets**

### PLATFORM: PRINT

#### **SOLOMON STAR**

The Solomon Star is the bigger of the two daily newspapers. It was launched on May 25, 1982. The founding publisher and director John Lamani served until his death in 2012. Ofani Eremae has served as the paper's editor since 2004.

The Star Company also owns and runs the country's largest FM radio station Paoa FM.

Circulation: 5000

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

Website: [solomonstarnews.com](http://solomonstarnews.com)

Facebook: Yes

#### **ISLAND SUN**

The Island Sun was launched on October 6, 2006, as a weekly newspaper and has now become the country's second daily. The Sun is the smaller of the two daily newspapers with a circulation of around 2000 daily but it is planning major redevelopments including construction of a new building and an eye on starting a TV service. Managing director Mathias Loji and Editor Priestly Habru are two of the founders still with the company.

Circulation: 2000

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

Website: [islandsun.com.sb](http://islandsun.com.sb)

Facebook: Yes

#### **SUNDAY ISLES and SOLOMON WOMEN**

The Sunday Isles was launched in 2009 and produces the country's only Sunday newspaper. In February 2015 it launched a weekly edition called Solomon Women, which is on sale every Wednesday. It is owned by Lynda Wate.

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

Website: [sundayisles.com.sb](http://sundayisles.com.sb)

Facebook: Yes

#### SOLOMON BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Launched in February 2015, the magazine is owned and run by Robert Iroga, who is also a board member of SIBC. It is published monthly.

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

Facebook: Yes

#### ISLANDS BUSINESS MAGAZINE

A regional publication of news and business that also covers the Solomon Islands. It has recently been taken over by a group of senior journalists (Netani Rika, Dennis Rounds, Samisoni Pareti). It is based in Suva and is published monthly. The company also publishes a quarterly inflight magazine for Solomon Airlines.

Sector: Private

Language: English

Website: [islandsbusiness.com](http://islandsbusiness.com)

Facebook: Yes

#### PLATFORM: RADIO

#### SOLOMON ISLANDS BROADCASTING CORPORATION (SIBC)

SIBC is an SOE and defined as a public service broadcaster. It is the only provider of an AM service. SIBC operates two national radio stations, the AM service Radio Happy Isles and the FM station Wantok FM. It also operates two local stations, Radio Happy Lagoon (Western Province) and Radio Temotu (Temotu Province).

SIBC started live streaming in 2014 and the launch of a TV service has recently been put on hold.

Frequencies: Wantok FM 96.30; Radio Happy Isles 1035

Sector: SOE/government

Language: English and Pidgin

Website: [sibconline.com.sb](http://sibconline.com.sb)

Facebook: Yes

#### PAOA FM

It is also known as Star FM and is billed as the Solomon Islands' largest FM radio station. It is part of the Solomon Star newspaper stable and broadcasts on 97.7 and 101.7. Paoa says it reaches listeners in



Guadalcanal, Malaita, Central Islands, parts of Makira, Isabel and Western Province.

Frequencies: 97.7, 10.7

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English and Pidgin

#### BARAVA FM

Barava FM is new and targets mature listeners with classic and gold music on 104.1. It was launched in July 2016 by former Paoa FM broadcaster John Adafaki Junior, who is the managing director and owner. Adafaki trained in New Zealand.

Frequency: 104.1

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English and Pidgin

#### Z FM

The country's first FM station started off as Island FM.

Frequency: 99.50

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English and Pidgin

#### HOPE FM

A radio station run by the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Frequency: 88.1

Sector: Church/community

Language: English and Pidgin

#### GUD NIUS REDIO

Run by Pacific Partners Solomon Islands Association, made up of several church groups

Frequency: 88.30

Sector: Church/Community

Language: Pidgin

#### PLATFORM: TELEVISION

#### ONE TV

Provides local and regional content. Owner: Dorothy Wickham.

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

#### SATSOL

Digital pay TV. Content: foreign

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

#### SOLOMON TELIKOM

Owned by Solomon Telikom, it relays overseas services from Australia and BBC with local advertising.

Sector: Government

Language: English

#### PLATFORM: DIGITAL

Apart from news websites run by the mainstream media:

#### SOLOMON TIMES ONLINE

Sector: Private/commercial

Language: English

Website: [solomontimes.com](http://solomontimes.com)

#### SOLOMON TODAY POST

Sector: Private

Language: English

Website: [solomontodaypost.wordpress.com](http://solomontodaypost.wordpress.com)

### **LEGISLATION**

Press freedom in the Solomon Islands is strong and here have been no moves to bring the media under any form of state control or censorship. While the state-owned SIBC do come under some pressure from individuals in the government, it has continued to enjoy complete freedom in how it feels it should conduct its public service.

Laws in place that directly impact on the media are the Broadcasting Act 1976 and the Television Amendment Act 1996.

## **WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AND FACILITATORS**

Facilitators (2)

Jale Moala

Netani Rika

Solomon Island Business

Magazine (1)

Robert Liroga

Island Sun (1)

Priestley Habru

Royal Solomon Island Police (3)

PC Spink Mahuta

PC Desmond Rave

Darren Folau (RAMSI PPF)

Solomon Star (4)

Ofani Eremae

Ednal Palmer

Eddie Osifelo

Charles K

RAMSI (1)

Johnson Honimae

MASI (1)

Bruce Levett

Independent (1)

Merinda Valley

SIBC (2)

Rickson Bau

Georgina Kekea

Sunday Isles (3)

Stephen Favobo

Mavis Podokolo

Simon Tuvake

Vois Blong Mare (5)

Josephine Teakeni

Lisa Horiwapu

Stella Waioha

Alison Hou

Katherine Sanga

Catholic Communications (2)

Joe Vidiki

Camillus Kole



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **United Nations Conduct Peace Journalism Workshop**

November 16, 2016 (Honiara, Solomon Islands)

UNDP, through the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF), is conducting the peace journalism training in Honiara on 16-18 November.

The three-day event lead by UNDP and two independent consultants brings journalists from across the media spectrum to discuss peace time journalism and how the media could enhance their work supporting social cohesion in Solomon Islands. The training is an opportunity to promote the role of media in extending research and coverage of peace and development issues and messages. Importantly also as a group, part of the Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) it offers a networking opportunity for the diverse group who are media and communication specialists.

Azusa Kubota, the head of UN Joint Presence, highlighted media and journalists are key partners for development and peace for to the United Nations. The media is a critical messenger on national issues. In Solomon Islands the challenge to present a wide range of issues is critical for peace and development.

Sir Paul Tovua, adviser to this project commented on the importance of media as partners in assisting to build public support in communities for peace building.

Agus Wandu, UN Peacebuilding Project Manager, in welcoming participants highlighted that peace could only be achieved by building understanding. And the media is the vehicle to build this understanding. Media is the positive force for social cohesion, national unity, and to highlight voices women and youth.

The workshop is supported by a variety of Solomon Island organisations including MNURP, UN Women, Police, RAMSI and MASI.

END

**About the UN Peace Building Fund** - *The UN's Peacebuilding Programme is supporting national stakeholders to sustain peace by creating an inclusive space for dialogues, supporting implementation of Solomon Islands' national peace policies, and engaging women and youth in peace activities, implemented jointly by UNDP and UN Women Solomon Islands.*

For media enquires, please contact:

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Tel: +677 7398819 email: [jane.rutledge@undp.org](mailto:jane.rutledge@undp.org)



Participants of the training.

# Training for local journalists

By EDIE OSFELD  
JOURNALISTS representing the mainstream media and advocacy groups are being trained at a workshop in Honiara yesterday.

The three-day workshop is being held at the Honiara Peace Building and aims to help local journalists work more effectively with media and dialogue.

Project Manager of UN Women, Ms. Wanda said that the workshop is a very important step in building the capacity of local journalists. She said that the workshop is a very important step in building the capacity of local journalists.

"Somebody said peace is not a goal, it is a journey. It is a process that has to be built by understanding."

Ms. Wanda said that the workshop is a very important step in building the capacity of local journalists. She said that the workshop is a very important step in building the capacity of local journalists.

# UN conducts peace journalism workshop

On the importance of the role of media in extending research and coverage of peace journalism in Solomon Islands. The training is an opportunity to promote the role of media in extending research and coverage of peace journalism in Solomon Islands. The training is an opportunity to promote the role of media in extending research and coverage of peace journalism in Solomon Islands.

# Dad stabs daughter

By EDIE OSFELD  
A FATHER has been arrested for the murder of his 14-year-old daughter. The father was arrested for the murder of his 14-year-old daughter.

# Former Fiji Times editor shares experience

By EDIE OSFELD  
Former Editor-in-Chief of the Fiji Times, Mr. Rika, has shared his experience of working in the media during the military coup in Fiji. He said that the experience was a very challenging one.

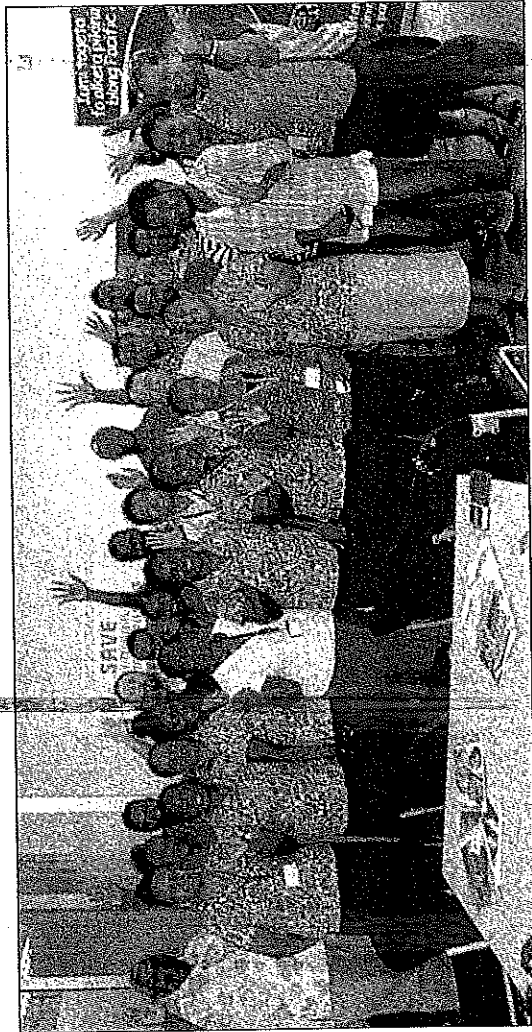
**HAPPY HOUR**  
THURSDAY/FRIDAY/SATURDAY  
7PM-8PM  
**SOBREW BOGGLY**  
**SOBREW CAN**  
**SB CAN**  
AND  
**JOINING ABOVE CAN**  
**ALL \$15**  
DRAUGHT BEER ALSO AVAILABLE

**AUTOREC**  
TOYOTA RAV4  
TOYOTA HARRIER  
TOYOTA COASTER  
TOYOTA CALDINA  
TOYOTA PROACE  
TOYOTA SPACIO  
TOYOTA RIZE COMPUTER  
SUZUKI CARRY





# NEWS LOCAL



The UN Joint Presence Office staff poses with local journalists

## Journalists get insight on UN work

BY BARNABAS MANEBONA

LOCAL journalists had the opportunity to attend morning tea in commemoration of the UN Day with the United Nations Joint Presence Office staff at the UNJPO Conference Room Ground floor, ANZ House, Ranadi Honiara.

The special get-together yesterday was to enable the UN Office, which comprises of many different UN agencies to meet the Media and also provide an opportunity to share a brief on what they do and also learn from the Media as well.

Speaking during the morning

get together UNDP Solomon Islands Country Director Azusa Kubota told the journalists attending that the get together was part of celebrating the United Nations' (UN) Day.

She told journalists present that UN Joint Presence Office value the partnership because journalists play a key role to help UN and its agencies in communicating the right message to communities.

"Media plays an important role. With your help hand in hand, we can achieve our common interest and goal in making the lives of Solomon Islands people better," she

assured the journalists.

Local journalists later got the chance to interact with different representatives from the different UN agencies that make up the UN Joint Presence Office.

They discussed and got to understand more about the UN and its role, purpose, goals, how it existed and the different agencies goals and aims coordinated under the organisation.

The UN Joint Presence Office staff during the occasion also got the chance to learn more about the work of Media in how they do reporting as well.

## How our future depends on a girl at this decisive age



Bruce Campbell, UNFPA Pacific Director and Representative, sm

A report released yesterday by the United Nations Population Fund highlights the need to invest in the lives of an estimated 60 million 10-year-

Pacific Sub-Regional Office Director and Representative.

Ten is a pivotal age for girls. The report provides essential actions for the 10-year-old girl, in the areas of health service, policy, investment

