



EUROPEAN UNION



OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

Celebrating Women's Leadership in our Communities

Acknowledgements

UNDP SECSIP (Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project) has a required gender component (output 5) to enhance women's participation for a more cohesive society. In the past, this has resulted in various successful activities. The ideas and general direction to do this have been developed by the SECSIP team taking into account additional research and action plans developed by UN experts identified by SECSIP.

New creative ideas are always sought to continue this support bearing in mind it is a long-term objective.

One element identified in the findings of various research studies and reflected in the mandated SECSIP Project Document was how important it is to have 'experience in community service' and a 'reputation for helping' to be perceived as a woman leader. In 2018 SECSIP continued to pursue ideas to address these barriers and the Outstanding Women initiative grew out of this process. An expert (Phillipa Neave) was engaged by SECSIP and it was Phillipa who came up with the excellent title 'Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands' and other important elements to move the ideas forward. The logo and artwork was also developed with the expert artistic advice of consultant Karen Kelleher. Particular thanks must be reserved for Loretta Taika who sang and arranged the production of the song 'Women Rise Up'.

Taking into account all the many inputs it has truly been a teamwork effort led by SECSIP to get to the present milestone stage and many thanks to all concerned.



Olga Rábade
SECSIP Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager
Honiara, September 2020

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOLOMON ISLANDS





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WELKAM to the Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands Initiative. In this booklet you will read the stories of eleven women, one from each province and two from Honiara. Each of these women is in her own way exceptional. Each of them was elected to be recognised as an Outstanding Woman and celebrated for her work and contribution to the society.

The aim of this initiative is to pay tribute to women who are valued and respected because of their positive contributions to their communities and leadership values.

In an inclusive process conducted in partnership with the Provincial Council of Women (PCW), members of the community, both women and men and young people of voting age, women in a village, ward, urban area or church group,

senior citizens and people with disabilities nominated whom they think is an outstanding woman and explain the reasons why they believe that this person has valuable leadership qualities. The nominees were interviewed to document their contributions and to develop individual profiles for public presentation before the election.

Community members were then invited to vote. Votes were cast and the woman with the most votes was named the Outstanding Woman in each province or Honiara city.

Throughout the country, 120 women were nominated as outstanding and you will find their names at the back of this booklet. All are valued for many different reasons. In this booklet, the stories of 11 Outstanding Women are featured. They are the ones who received the highest number of votes in each of the 9 Outstanding Women elections at provincial level and 2 who came in equal in Honiara.

SECSIP thanks the Provincial Councils of Women of Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Makira, Malaita, Renbell, Temotu and Western Provinces as well as to the Young Women Christian Association of Solomon Islands for their valuable partnership. SECSIP also wants to thank the project donors, the Government of Australia and the European Union for the support provided to this initiative.

Mary Kora Taraile Central Province



"I am seen as a woman who is able to conduct activities to lead and train women."

When she was elected as the Outstanding Woman for Central Province, Mary was already known for her work as chairperson of her community's savings club "I am seen as a woman who is able to conduct activities to lead and train women," says this married mother of three.

Mary also mediated during conflict situations in her community and ward. She is also engaged in natural disaster assessments ensuring people's loss of property during cyclones is recorded and sent to authorities for assistance.

Over the years, Mary has grown to be appreciated by people in the community who describe her as a good communicator, hospitable and a respected manager. As an educated woman, she has built up a good reputation for her work on behalf of women in her area.

"I can assist women in the communities. I was given their trust and confidence. I have some ideas of how to help women in the wards, empower them to be self-reliant," she

says enthusiastically. Having run a number of programmes in support of women, Mary is determined to continue: “We see changes happening in our wards,” she says.

Thanks to her participation in workshops, Mary has built up her own skills and wants to share these with the women in her Province. “I will go to the seven communities in my ward to train them in whatever I have learnt in the workshops I attended,” she says.

Known as very active and responsible in implementing programmes and activities in the community, Mary is also described as sociable and open to conversations. Making the effort to know the women in the community and understand their needs is what makes Mary a committed leader: “I want to encourage other women. I want to tell them that I will visit them,” she says.

“I want to let the people of my province know that women were born to be chosen by God. Many women in the wards know me so I want to tell them to wait to hear my voice when I come around.”



Florence Vasaro Choiseul Province



*"Marginalized people,
people with disabilities
who have special needs
are so often overlooked
and not recognized by
us leaders"*

Florence Vasaro was born in Honiara and grew up in Gizo. Married for 30 years, she is the mother of three with one grandchild. Florence reached 5th Form at school and has been working to support women for close to 15 years.

"It all started when I was working with Oxfam after the tsunami in Gizo, in 2007," she explains. "I worked mostly with women's groups addressing issues to do with shelter, water, sanitation and land rights." She was also the coordinator for the Gizo circuit in the central region of the United Church in Western Province for six years.

Back in her community in Choiseul Province, Florence led by example by volunteering to cook for construction workers who were rebuilding the doctor's house.

She wants Choiseul women to be economically empowered. "I supported women who wanted to generate income by helping them to start their small bakeries, by supplying them with flour from my own shop and allowing them to repay me later," Florence recalls. "I provided them with floral

arrangements training as well as table setting and integrated this with nutritious meals training especially for young women,” she adds.

“I learnt about community participation and the importance of women contributing at local level,” she explains. “Choiseul has a patrilineal culture, so men often believe that what they say is what everyone should follow. If we work side by side with men, helping them to understand the women’s side of the coin, they will support women. But if we work in such a way where we are seen to be on top, it will bring friction.”

Florence has also gained the respect of the community through her care for people who are less fortunate. “I do visitations to people with disabilities and do small trainings,” she says. “Marginalized people, people with disabilities who have special needs are so often overlooked and not recognized by us leaders.”

“It is my dream that I can be their voice at whatever level, to bring out their needs. It is my prayer that I will help them in these areas, to have their voices heard on the decision-making bodies.”

Florence is beginning to play this role by addressing the critical environmental issues arising from uncontrolled logging activities and the destruction of rivers and gardens belonging to women. She is also working with young girls and their families to build awareness on issues like teenage pregnancy.

Rose Sese

Guadalcanal Province



"Our lives were at risk but we steadily kept up until there was understanding," (as a member of a team informing people about the end of hostilities)

Rose Tova Sese is a brave woman. She was born over 60 years ago in South Guadalcanal and in the course of her life, she has risen to a number of remarkable challenges, not least in the wake of the tensions and the Townsville Peace Agreement in 2000. She was the only woman in a team led by the Premier of Guadalcanal Province who travelled around to inform people about the end of hostilities and promote peace. "Our lives were at risk but we steadily kept up until there was understanding," she recalls. She later challenged the Premier to resolve ongoing tensions and obtain the release of wrongfully arrested youths.

Rose may have inherited her sense of purpose from her mother who was determined that her two daughters should receive an education and be able to supply her with the same support and she would get from a male child. Later, a family member of Rose wanted to arrange her marriage, but she and her mother were able to turn the situation around: "That incident challenged our culture," she says "girls are

meant to stay home, not to go out, get married, look after children, work in the garden and this is her life until she gets old and dies.”

But Rose had other plans. She completed her education and went on to work for the Ministry of Health for 20 years. “What mother taught me on the importance of education was already instilled in me,” she says. Rose married and put all seven of her children through school. Rose now has 26 grandchildren.

But what made her reputation in Guadalcanal were her activities and leadership in favour of peace that led her to challenge local fighters and the government for its lack of action. She went on to organise literacy programmes as well as trainings in floral arrangements, screen printing, tie dying. She also facilitated trainings in finance, soil testing, strategic planning, as well as business skills. Elected President of Kamakazi (Sisters), Rose also took 53 women to Fiji, raising funds for the trip. She has since helped single mothers, widows, girls by providing employment on her farm which she has developed into a very successful business, enabling her to help and train other farmers.

“My assistance to the community and to women has brought about change in the women. They speak out in church gatherings and discuss in these meetings. This did not happen in the past. I am happy because I see change.”

Dorothy Bana Isabel Province



"We are all outstanding with the different skills we provide for people in the communities."

A teacher for 36 years and the wife of a priest, Dorothy Bana has worked for the community and more specifically for women all her adult life. She has travelled and lived in many parts of the country. A mother of four girls and a boy and grandmother to 10 children, Dorothy now in her 60s, works as Community Development Coordinator for the Mother's Union, a 100 year-old organisation and the women's arm of the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM). Dorothy continues to paddle back and forth to work in a canoe every day.

Leadership, she believes, is something that must be nurtured early on. "It started in the womb of my beloved mother," she says. "My parents were great leaders who were recognized by the people in the communities, the church and the government during the colonial days." Encouraged by her parents, Dorothy developed into a highly respected professional woman who has worked at policy level with provincial, church and traditional authorities, down to the grassroots. She is often invited to participate in church,

government and traditional leadership dialogues bringing the women's perspectives into the discussions and decision making. "I have worked for an UNDP programme in a Good Governance pilot here and I was also a Child Friendly Coordinator for UNICEF. I also attended a UN Habitat Local Leaders' training in Fiji to train provincial leaders," she says.

She feels a responsibility to mentor and encourage the younger generation of girls. "I have the confidence to pave the way for my women before the young leaders take off after me," she explains. "I always encourage the young leaders to forget about their low self-esteem and rise through their work and have high self-esteem," she explains. "I encourage young women to grow in their leadership role in whatever organisations and communities they serve in."

"I am also a strong advocate for Human Rights because I am a Paralegal Trainer," she adds and I am also a focal point for women in elections, so in the past elections, I also went around with women candidates to campaign for them. I've also worked out my plan and vision - from me, then down to my Council members, then with other stakeholders, so that things will happen for the women."

"Every woman is outstanding, and they are all equal in the sight of God and the extra commitments and love and passion they give to God and other people makes them more outstanding."

Julie Mavetau Makira Province



"It opened up the minds and outlook of our people in the community and the men were acknowledging that women also have a big role to play."

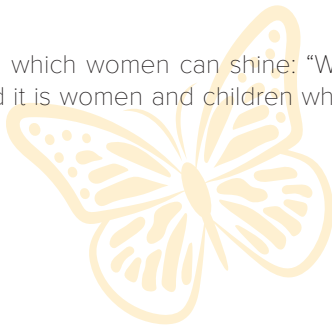
A woman of courage, Julie Mavetau, in her early 50s, was born in Honiara and now lives in Nukukaisi village in Makira Province. A mother of seven and now a grandmother, Julie is a widow. Her late husband was a diplomat and Julie experienced living abroad, in particular in Brussels.

Raising her children on her own has given Julie strength and the courage to tackle difficult problems. Among the delicate issues affecting the community, and in particular young people, are alcohol abuse among boys and teenage pregnancy among girls. "Boys consume alcohol and I tell them that they need to make positive changes in their lives and to move on because there is a big journey ahead of them," she says. "Teenage pregnancy is a common problem in our community, but as our culture is very strong, it is hard for parents to deal directly with the girl or boy who is involved. But as the Outstanding Woman for my community and my province, it is my role to reach out to those who are affected," she adds.

Julie's quiet demeanour and leadership work was also recognized by her people who chose her as their community's representative on the Village Peace Council, a project funded by the World Bank. Through this project, she has been able to put some of her experiences to work and has helped troubled couples sort out their marital difficulties.

As a woman leader, Julie is seeing some positive changes. "Our culture is also strong in that women have very little chance of taking up leadership roles, but with new projects and ideas coming into our communities through workshops and projects, things are changing," she explains. For example, she recalls a workshop on awareness on gender equality in Nukukaisi. "It opened up the minds and outlook of our people in the community and the men were acknowledging that women also have a big role to play," she says.

Julie sees the church as an area in which women can shine: "Women are the ones taking up the church leadership and it is women and children who fill up the church," she observes.



Rose Liata Malaita Province



"We want to see more of our girls and future generations take up leadership roles."

A mother of six with one grandchild, Rose Liata, now in her forties, is no stranger to challenges. She has served as Minister in the Malaita Provincial Assembly, making her one of the few women to have reached that position. "As we know, Malaita Province is a male dominated society," she says, and of those representing the 33 wards, she was the only woman. "So, in terms of decision making in the house, it is a bit tough," she says, "but through my involvement with men, I saw that some of them really support women."

"People, leaders, women and the community as a whole saw that I possess leadership qualities because I am very involved with women as well as with local leaders, the church and chiefs," she says. During her time in the Malaita Provincial Government, Rose was able to gain respect and achieve concrete results. "I was able to implement some major projects in my ward," she explains. For example, she helped ensure a rural health clinic and a market house were built. "I see that these projects really benefitted the

people in my ward and they came as a result of my involvement with the men. These are the benefits which people receive when men are involved with women in decision making.”

But while there has been progress with women’s representation at local and provincial levels, with only 3 women in the SI parliament in 2020, there is still a long way to go in terms of women’s position in politics and policy making at national level,. “Women can enter the national level as well. Custom should not be a factor stopping women to go there,” she says. “People should realise some important facts. For example, when a woman is in a position of leadership, projects have been implemented. When only men are there, there is nothing to show.”

“My dreams for the future especially for our girls is to involve them, educate them on what leadership is and the qualities that they should possess. We must educate them also on our politics and our political structures so that they know what goes on in the constituencies. We must encourage them when they enter secondary schools to be involved in leadership positions such as becoming head girl. By doing so, they will be nurtured to have those qualities within them so that when they become adults and want to take up leadership roles, they will know what leadership is.”

Christina Nasiu Renbell Province



*"I know that we women
have the capacity to run
for elections."*

As a graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Economics and Finance as well as having a diploma in Finance from the Solomon Islands National University, Christina Mary Nasiu, now in her fifties, is a great example of how hard women must work to balance family and professional life. Married to a pastor, Christina has raised five boys and an adopted girl while working first as Senior Accounts Admin Officer for ANZ as well as with Sol Law. When she moved to Renbell Province to follow her husband who was offered a job there, she took up a position as Deputy Principal of New Place Primary School. Since 2011, she has been with the Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme for Renbell as well as working with the Small Business Centre as adviser and trainer.

Christina is the only woman working in the provincial government office. "When I work with the men, I do not see any barriers to me contributing to decisions," she says. "In the Renbell context, I can say that the men recognize

women,” she adds. She believes that women can play a role in politics but they need extra effort and support to succeed in elections. “I know that we women have the capacity to run for elections,” she says, but the challenge is to garner sufficient backing. Regarding elections, she says “it is not so much about being a man or a woman, it is about how many people you will convince, but there are many men who still have the thinking that this is a woman and I will not vote for her.”

Political leadership is still out of the reach of most women, largely because of cultural attitudes, she believes, but women are progressing in other areas. “One of the positive things about Renbell is that many women are becoming entrepreneurs and are setting up income generating activities and this makes me happy because I want to see women grow in that area. When I look around, most businesses here are owned by women. In Renbell, we are talking about all women being outstanding.”



Roselyn Lemoba Temotu Province



"When we fight against corruption and other issues, we are so bold, but the people know that we are standing up for everyone's right."

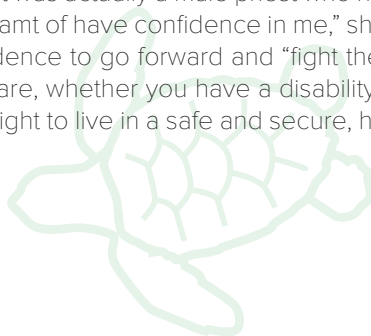
Roselyn Lemoba knows the importance of education. Born in Temotu, she graduated from the University of the South Pacific with a Bachelor of Education, majoring in history and politics. Roselyn, now in her mid-forties, is a teacher and the mother of two girls and five boys, she has ambitions for them and the younger generation. "My heart's desire for all my children is that they too will reach university level so they can have a good education to help bring up our nation," she says. "I feel that there is a need for educated people to stand up, irrespective of gender."

As an active member of her community, Roselyn has intervened in many of the issues affecting women in the community, including domestic violence. But she is also working to raise awareness of some of the wider problems impacting Temotu, in particular the negative effects of mining and logging.

Taking on such big issues takes courage. "Sometimes we are putting our lives at risk, but it is a good fight, not only for people now but also for future generations," she says.

“Sometimes we just go beyond being afraid, to ensure our people are safe and future generations have things to live for.” As a woman, she feels that teaming up with men makes both stronger: “A lot of times I go out with men who are the front liners in the fight against these issues,” she says. This has earned her the respect of other women. “That is why women have confidence in me to be their voice,” she says. “When we fight against corruption and other issues, we are so bold, but the people know that we are standing up for everyone’s right,” she adds. “I owe it to education which enabled me to know what surrounds these issues.”

Roselyn has earned the respect not only of the women, but also the men in her community: “I feel so humbled because it was actually a male priest who nominated me as a candidate. So, men who I never dreamt of have confidence in me,” she says. As an Outstanding Woman, she has the confidence to go forward and “fight the good fight,” as she puts it. “Irrespective of who you are, whether you have a disability or whatever situation you are in, everybody has the right to live in a safe and secure, happy Temotu and Solomon Islands as a whole.”



Rendy Solomon

Western Province



"The women came up with the idea of doing recycling crafts. So, we have a registered a group called Plastic Wise Gizo."

From the Western Province, Rendy Solomon's education took her all the way to the Fiji School of Medicine where she was awarded a Public Health Inspectorate qualification. Married with three children, she works as an Environmental Health Officer. "We work with communities to build water supplies and sanitation," she explains. "We undertake awareness education in the communities to address health issues with prevention and care." Rendy has helped put together a three-year water and sanitation development plan for Western Province funded under the national R Wash programme. One aim is to bring clean water supplies to the community, reducing the long, tiring and sometimes dangerous trips women have to make to collect water. "There is also a decrease in skin diseases and diarrhoea in communities that have clean and accessible water supplies," she explains.

Rendy, now in her mid-fifties, has been very active for some 13 years in the provincial government, working in favour of women. "One of the areas that has seen much change is the leadership capacity of women," she says. "Women are

now quite vocal when they understand their roles and responsibilities, especially those who have a better understanding of the national women's policy which has trickled down to the provincial level. They have taken up the responsibility of implementing these at their local levels," she explains.

She and others have also been working to set up women's Savings Clubs and financial literacy programmes. "In the past women just stayed at home, doing domestic chores, but now we are seeing women coming out and trying to make ends meet and support their children's education," she says. In particular, she has enabled women to become members of the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund's scheme called USave which enables women to build up their financial resources. "People can do deposits at a mobile phone Top Up Service in the community, so women can save right there in their villages." These savings are largely used to pay for school fees and open up small businesses, she explains.

Another initiative with women focuses on the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle rubbish. "The women came up with the idea of doing recycling crafts. So, we have a registered a group called Plastic Wise Gizo," she says, which won two Pacific Region entrepreneurship awards. "Most of our members are housewives who may not have completed their education, but they are smart," she says adding that the group is taking the lead on environment advocacy and awareness in schools.

Melvina Voua Honiara



"I see my position as an OW as an opportunity to address the issues that PWDs experience as well as those facing youth and women."

Melvina Voua, 28, works part time as Climate Change Officer for People with Disabilities Association and is involved in many volunteer activities with youth. She is a member of Students for Peace, a youth group conducting leadership trainings for students in secondary schools in and around Honiara. She also undertakes community service programmes such as town clean-ups. She is the Secretary for Women and Girl's with Disability which advocates for the rights of young women with disabilities and their empowerment. Under a Pacific Disability Forum programme entrusted to SI for 2020, Melvina is working with ministries and NGOs on a field study on the Impact of Climate Change on People with Disabilities (PWDs) and adaptation programs.

"I am determined and have courage to be involved in community service, because I attended an international leadership program in the USA," she says, "and that really empowered me so on my return to the Solomons, I became involved in activities to help young people and those with

disabilities because I am also a girl with a disability who has faced many challenges and problems.” These include access to services and discrimination. “But I know if I just stay at home, I will not achieve my dreams and goals,” she adds.

“I see my position as an OW as an opportunity to address the issues that PWDs experience as well as those facing youth and women,” she says.

Melvina’s positive attitude extends to getting involved in sports despite her disability: “I joined the Para Team Solomon to encourage others. My participation in sport is to show them that people with disability can play in sports, go to school and can do whatever normal people do. That is my motivation, to be a role model for others. So despite the challenges, we must always look at the positive side of things, always.

One of my aims is to ensure that the government ratifies the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).”



Ellen Jemima Paiake Honiara



*"Empower a Woman,
Empower a Generation."*

Ellen Jemima Paiake, in her fifties, was born in Niupani in Rennell Province and now lives in Honiara. Married with five children, she adopted a sixth. Ellen is modest about her achievements but is greatly appreciated in her community for her work with youth and women. She founded and registered a woman's association in her community, with a Constitution and a motto: "Empower a Woman, Empower a Generation." She has included a youth representative in the group. The association, she explains, is one of the ways to involve women and young people in positive activities.

She enjoys the respect of the young people and she thinks she is popular because she is supportive and non-judgemental. As she says, "I socialise with people and am friendly. I do not have a job but I always help people. I go down to their level especially the young. One of the challenges these days with the youths is that they are involved in drinking."

Ellen has a way with the young, and does not hesitate to go towards them, even if they are intoxicated and a fight is

breaking out. She manages to talk to them. They listen to her when they don't listen to others: "When I intervene, they break up their fight and apologize," says Ellen; "so they respect me a lot and I believe it is from my caring nature towards them."

Ellen is also mindful of the problems facing young women. "I always tell them to be proud of themselves and that they are very beautiful." Ellen is that kind of person who introduces non-traditional activities that are good for young women to engage in.

In her home community in Niupani, she even organised a women's soccer league and everyone joked about the league, "but the women enjoyed themselves," she recalls. Ellen is a skilful weaver of baskets and mats. "I also shared my God given natural talents with the women in my home community," she says.

Another quality that makes Ellen special in the eyes of her community is her openness and tolerance of other cultures and customs. As a Polynesian married to a Melanesian, she navigates different ways of living by learning about them: "I interviewed some of the big chiefs of North Malaita and one from Kwara'ae about their customs because my custom way of living is totally different to theirs. I love socialising with people, but I need to know my boundaries," she says. "I am married to a Makira man and both sides of our family come to the house. I let them know about the different cultural obligations that need to be observed in my house on both sides. I have to educate them to understand before we can live together and respect each other."

Outstanding Women nominated at ward & community levels throughout Solomon Islands

Central

Mary Kora Taraile*

May Kena
Jessie Kualai
Alison Lent
Vivian Malusi
Julian Manele
Mary New
Wendy Ngina
Natali Pare
Sarah Sam
Grace Tawasi
Salome Uvi
Jenny Vaukei

Choiseul

Florence Vasaro*

Samao Biribo
Lydia Kavalana
Joyce Namaka
Thelma Naovautuki
Violin Palmer
Nester Qalo
Tracey Ellen Sasau
Barbra Sekie
Naolyn Tadanga

Guadalcanal

Rose Sese*

Haoka Abel
Maria Bola
Abigail Daki
Jenny Dodua
Moreen Agnes Ghaoka
Jacinta Glyn Halisi
Melinda Kii
Stella Kokopu
Emmanuela Lasaro
Sophie Marisi
Savina Mosa
Rose Nafo
Jennifer Oni
Jemima Rongo
Florence Sabo
Sharon Saen
Bernadette Sai
Ileen Sulukonina
Shaniela Talasi
Ida Tobeni
Martha Tovea
Lawrencia Vau
Lilly Virua

**Elected as Outstanding Woman at provincial level*

Isabel

Dorothy Bana*

Anna Willie Feitei
Lucy Segedi
Happlyn Toni
Janet Vickers

Makira

Julie Mavetau*

Gretta Asau
Ida Mae
Selestina Mamau
Mary Ngere
Cyrene Raike
Linda Wanunu
Alison Weago

Malaita

Rose Liata*

Alison Auta
Jocelyn Filia
Selly Hatrick
Jennifer Iduia
Joy Salome Iro
Gloria Kapei
Lucy Kirimaoma
Georgina Kofan
Hilda Laurele
Mary Kokosi Maesuba
Sharon Meke
Rachel Memea
Freda Naitoro
Rosella Nurau
Rhoda Peter
Jessie Sogote'e
Alice Teioli
Jennifer Totorea
Susan Tuita

**Elected as Outstanding Woman at provincial level*

Renbell

Christina Nasiu*

Jenny Hoaika

Joy Sa'o

Rosemary Tenaha

Elmah Teugukava

Christina Tuitupu

Temotu

Roselyn Lemoba*

Dorothy Aliko

June Balu

Mary Dagi

Elina Inapi

Roselyn Iwebu

Rodie Obulou

Roselyn Pakea

Martha Sode

Naomi Taali

Alice Naomi Tevio

Western

Rendy Solomon*

Catherine Arahauta

Emma Avasi

Rose S Faka

Grinta George

Varina Leke

Patricia Maeke

Francesca Muina

Esther Tali Suti

Hellen Tau

Hilder Unusi

Joyce Zoti

Honiara

Ellen Jemima Paieke**

Melvina Voua**

Kate Ahukela

Lorah Etega

Thelma Hunikera

Veronica Kapu

Betsy Ngialihesi

Kylie Oge

Mari Emmy Sammy

Clarine Toki

**Elected as Outstanding Woman at provincial level ** Elected as Outstanding Women for Honiara City*

The title 'Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands' together with its artwork logo, the 'Women Rise Up' song (lyrics and music) and all other contents of this publication have all been created and developed for UNDP as a part of its Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP).

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WOMEN RISE UP!

A song to celebrate women's
leadership in Solomon Islands

Umi woman today
Umi mere garem save, umi save lead tu
Staka gud samting umi doim
For village and for community
All we want is for an educated nation
All we want is for better representation

Our passion
Our dream is
For a safe
And equal society

Our hard work
Our struggles
We face them all defiantly

No matta road fo nation building
Hemi plande ana hati
Umi strong
Umi smart
Umi confident
We are leaders

No matta road fo nation building
Hemi plande ana hati
Umi strong
Umi smart
Umi confident
Let's rise together
Solomon Islands

Umi woman today
Umi mere garem save, umi save lead tu
Voice blo umi hem meaning
Income blo umi makem economy grow
School blo umi supportim family and country
Presence blo umi, bringim peace and love

Umi waka tuggeda
Umi side by side as one
Men and women united
Together Solomon Islands

Umi waka together
Umi woman today
Umi mere garem save, umi save lead tu



Loretta Taika, also known as ELL, has been on the Solomon Islands music scene for many years. Well known for her ability to adapt to many styles, she has a love for music and performance. She has recently started campaigning for gender equality and women's rights in the SI and has started her own organisation called Patella Legacy, in which she runs youth programs to educate young people on issues that affect women and girls.



OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOLOMON ISLANDS



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