

Submission Report to UPR
Cross section view on youth and communities

1. **VAW:** White ribbon campaign has been successful so far. Lots of women are more aware of their rights especially from abuse....but the program should be consistent and so ever on the front line so that the law enforcers and citizens of Nauru don't lose the momentum. However some women abuse their rights – provoke which leads to violence.

Recommend: Counselling for marriage couples and individuals with relationship problems.

2. **Child Abuse:** Implementation and enforcing of laws are inadequate and vague. Children and minors are not aware of their rights. Though sexual abuse is slowly being observed and noticed as wrong, physical abuse is a every day 'normality' in communities. Slapping in faces and obscene language use in anger is deemed a discipline!! Some go to extremes as throwing children against walls. Then there are those who on daily basis, denied nutritional goods and other needs because the money is reserved for the parents outing pleasures such as bingo, home bingo, TAB, cigarettes and grog sessions. Child labour is rift in communities. Older siblings are denied their childhood and forced to care for younger siblings and other menial house chores. Some are denied education because they have to care for younger siblings and help mother. However some get beaten if chores are not done.

Recommendation:

1. Employment of a social service/social worker who can work with troubled families. Including counselling.
2. Re enforcing and implementing the Truancy law.
3. More awareness in schools and communities and workforces about child abuse and children's rights.
4. More promotion on family planning.
5. Establish a young mothers clinic to support inexperienced, too young and or in confident mothers.
6. Stronger laws and enforcement of adults engaging in sexual activities with minors. Strong enough to withhold rights to live together and or marry although parents of both sides have given consent. A minor is a minor and the law should uphold its rulings.
7. Implement strong consistent penalties for child abuse offenders.

Employment: Worker's right are being abused on Nauru. There is an unfair treatment between local staff and expatriates. Qualified expatriates are regularly given overseas training course when it's the locals who need the training for capacity building. There are also evident positions which expats are hired yet a local of the same qualifications is over looked and regarded second best and receive also a second rate salary..

Cont:

Local's salary compared to expats is ridiculously imbalanced.

Too many Gvt departments are closed and hundreds of employees retrenched with no explanation but illogical reasons of lack of funding. However, through sweat and toil, the Gvt is able to get funding, grants, sponsorships for new cars, new buildings, obtain a sustainable grass roots grant (which when put together on a yearly basis can pay for hundreds of salaries).

Nepotism is rife in the workforces. Inexperienced/unqualified relatives are employed in good pay positions.

Recommendations:

1. More promotion for locals at all levels.
2. Qualified and experienced locals should get first choice for good pay or high ranking positions over expats.
3. Better management and more mechanisms must be implemented to uphold Gvt workplaces to prevent the need for retrenchment.
4. Establish a workers union.

Illiteracy: Too many youths are illiterate. Absenteeism is caused by many reason. It's preventing them from developing themselves into productive citizens of Nauru.

Recommend:

1. Re enforcing and implementing the Truancy law
2. More buses and better transport system for school students. The lack of buses and inconsistent bus pick ups is a major turn off for students and parents.
3. National curfew policies for students and children.
4. Employ good teachers.
5. National policies for a healthy friendly school environment especially to prevent bullying and violence in schools.
6. The Gvt should also fund and implement mechanisms to feed children at schools who cannot afford breakfast eg parents unemployed or retrenched.
7. Establish and or reintroduce the PRIDE Second Chance Basic English course. Teach illiterate youths to read and learn English. This program should be attached with other bridging programs for the youths to move onto after completing basic English eg; TVET / Trade Schools.

Unemployment: The closing of the Works Department, Eigigu Super market and retrenchments in certain Gvt dept. have left hundreds of families without a breadwinner. Poverty has risen and children are hungry and most likely neglected due to stress.

Recommend: 1. The Gvt should have a back up plan or an unemployment scheme to help relief families with not income.
2. Funding should be available to pay off pending salaries, superannuation and provident funds owed to retrenched workers, and not only to the deceased. It is senseless to give out payments owed to a dead person.
3. More educational and more skills training programs must be implemented to help unemployed, illiterate people get jobs. More job opportunities of various choices.

Nerida-Ann Hubert
Gen Sec NNYC
Anabar President

Zinnia Grundler
HIV/STI Coordinator
Menen Youth Council