

ADOPTION STATEMENT

Consideration of UPR Reports: Solomon Islands UN Human Rights Council 48th session 13 September 2021 to 08 October 2021

This statement is being delivered on behalf of the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association.

We welcome the government of Solomon Islands' engagement in the UPR process, and its full or partial acceptance of recommendations related to access to basic education for both boys and girls, ending gender-based violence, and addressing the climate crisis.

We note with concern that Solomon Islands did not support other important recommendations such as access to appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive healthcare for adolescents and youth, including for persons with disabilities; decriminalization of abortion and protecting the rights of children and persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities.

Solomon Islands reports high rates of unmet need for family planning and low update of contraception. Consequently, unintended pregnancy rates are high in SI, with 57% of all women between 15-49 years reporting that their last pregnancy was unplanned. SI also experiences one of the highest reported rates of gender-based violence. In 2008, it was reported that 42% of women between the ages of 15-49 years had experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months. These statistics show a pressing need for increased sexuality education and improved access to sexual and reproductive health services. Access to comprehensive, high quality and timely sexual and reproductive health services is critical for women, adolescents, and youth to be able to make informed choices about their sexuality and reproductive matters and protect them from unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence and sexually transmitted infections.

We urge Solomon Islands to reconsider its position and to implement these recommendations without delay and to report back on progress through a mid-term report.

In closing, we reaffirm the need for continued engagement with Civil Society Organizations to strengthen efforts for the realization of human rights for all persons living in Solomon Islands. As partners and supporters of the work being done by the government, SIPPA welcomes future opportunities to lend our expertise in these important areas of discussion.

Thank you.