

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

12 March 2020 ASA 18/1993/2020

# FIJI: ADDRESS GAPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION BEFORE NEXT REVIEW

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME ON FIJI

The 11-member Fiji UPR CSO Gender Working Group and Amnesty International acknowledge the wide range of recommendations which have been accepted by Fiji. This demonstrates the transitioning nature of democracy in Fiji, which still requires more action in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We would like to emphasize the following priority issues for implementation during the next cycle, which would go a long way towards addressing existing shortcomings:

- Enact and implement a holistic Anti-Discrimination and Equality Law which includes provisions to comprehensively address the multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination faced by the LGBTI persons;
- Repeal all laws and policies that unlawfully restrict fundamental freedom of expression, assembly and association, including sections of the Public Order Act Amendment Act, the Media Industry Development Act, the 2014 Electoral Act and the Online Safety Act;
- Take measures to permit lawful labour, political, and social protests, and to safeguard activists' and human rights defenders' rights and individuals' right to speak and peacefully assemble freely, without harassment, and unimpeded by inappropriately applied administrative obstacles;
- Re-introduce temporary special measures so as to reduce the gender gap and systematically address the concerns and rights of women in the public and private spheres; and finally
- Increase public funds to guarantee in the case of natural disasters the right to food, health and water and sanitation, as well as the construction of shelters that take into account the particular needs of women.

## BACKGROUND

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review on Fiji on 12 March 2020 during its 43rd session. This is the 11-member Fiji UPR CSO Gender Working Group Amnesty International's statement on the outcome prior to the adoption of the report of the review. The statement was not delivered in the session as Amnesty International took the decision to protect its staff from the COVID 19 pandemic and to ensure it actively contributes to minimizing spread of the virus.