



‘Reporting the Story of Us’ Women Leaders Media Masterclass 17 - 20 January 2022*

As part of its annual Reporting the Forum Leaders partnerships with Pacific media, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme invite interested journalists to take part in the Women Leaders Media Masterclass and join the media team covering the inaugural Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting on 19 January 2022. Both events will be held virtually and form part of the suite of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meetings set for early 2022.

Background

Women and girls across the region face common challenges, including the impacts of COVID-19, climate change and gender inequality. Women’s engagement in decision-making is important to ensuring effective, practical and inclusive solutions. Pacific Forum leaders have previously committed to working together to respond to these challenges. The inaugural Pacific Women Leaders’ Meeting is being launched in support of that objective and will help keep a high-level Forum focus on Pacific gender priorities.

Global and regional research in the field shows us that women and girls face unique challenges at the heart of gender inequality within media systems, and through media content. Within the media industry, access to safety and promotion at work is an issue for Pacific women in the media. The number of women in newsrooms has always been high, but so has turnover. Overall, pathways remain challenging for careers in news organisations, where men still dominate senior media positions.

At the content level, editorial bias continues to perpetuate the gendered cultural, societal, and institutional stereotypes and expectations on women’s roles and aspirations. It is important that ethical standards address this editorial bias to encourage more positive and balanced views of diversity, women and girls, men and boys.

Program

The pre-meeting online Masterclasses will enable journalists to understand the story of women’s leadership in the Pacific, the role women leaders play in driving resilient economies and communities and the barriers women and girls face in shaping development in their own countries.

A panel of women media leaders will also discuss the way forward for women as leaders in the media industry. This panel will launch a series of work in 2022 with further events planned for International Women’s Day, 8 March 2022.

Support from co-facilitators will focus on preparing participants to engage with leaders at the virtual pressers and mentored support to encourage media to interview women leaders attending from their own countries.

Sub-editing by facilitators will be available as a means of developing the story-telling capacity of journalists attending.

*** These are tentative dates only and are liable to change.
If selected, you will be kept abreast of any changes.**



Format

The program will be held online as a series of remote Masterclasses, with mentored coverage of the inaugural Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting on Wednesday 19 January 2022. Members of the media program will have a unique opportunity to engage with women leaders through virtual press conferences.

The facilitators will be Susan Grey (femLINK), Philippa McDonald (PACMAS), supported by Lisa Williams (PIF).

The full schedule is yet to confirmed, but a tentative program will include:

Monday 17 January	Opening formalities, 1.5 hour Masterclass
Tuesday 18 January	1.5 hour Masterclass
Wednesday 19 January	Meet the Leader event, Masterclass continues
Thursday 20 January	Post event briefing and review

Mentoring and sub-editing support will be available for one month following the workshop, up to and including the Pacific Islands Forum in February 2022. All Women Leaders Media Masterclass participants will be invited to join the Reporting Forum Leaders partnership events.

Participants

The opportunity is open to journalists, editors, freelancers, local and community media and government media from across the Pacific.

The program will be conducted in English.

Participants must have a stable internet connection to join the program.

Applications must be endorsed by managing editors via email. Freelancers should indicate a content platform for publication of copy.

There are no gender restrictions on attendance. All are welcome. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Additional support to enable participation is available on request.

Stipends

A training stipend of \$120AUD will be provided to participants who attend all four sessions, payable to the individual or the media organisation as requested.

How to apply

A limited number of places are available. Please address all expressions of interest, with 'Women Leaders Media Masterclass' in the subject line, to lisaw@forumsec.org

Please include in your email, a brief CV, links to recent work, an outline of why you wish to attend this program and any story ideas you hope to follow.

Applications close at 12 NOON FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2022 (Fiji time)

The Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) is an Australian Aid initiative, supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and delivered by ABC International Development.