

Media Release



Understanding the Work of the Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Thursday, 24 April 2025: Since the establishment of the Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission (FTRC), many in our communities, both at home and abroad, have been asking the vital questions: Who is involved, what is the Commission's role, where and when will the hearings take place, and most importantly, why does it matter? We're here to provide those answers and to warmly invite all Fijians, especially our diaspora, to stay engaged with this important national journey.

Q 1. What is the Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and what role does it play in the country's national development?

A: The Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission is an independent body established to support truth-telling, reconciliation, and national healing. Our mandate is to examine the impact of Fiji's past political upheavals, with particular focus on the physical and emotional harm experienced by individuals, the loss of life and property, and the broader patterns of systemic injustice.

By providing a safe and inclusive platform, we honor the lived experiences of survivors, ensuring their voices are heard, and acknowledged. This process is not about retribution, but about recognition, healing, and preventing the recurrence of past divisions.

The core of our work is guided by a commitment to fostering unity and social cohesion. It envisions a Fiji where all citizens feel safe, equal, respected, and empowered to thrive. Through reconciliation, we aim to help build a stronger, more just, and peaceful nation for generations to come.

Q2. What specific historical periods or events will the Commission examine as part of its mandate?

A: As part of our mandate, we will examine the major political upheavals that took place in 1987, 2000, and 2006. These events mark critical turning points in Fiji's history and have had deep and lasting impacts on individuals, families, and communities. We will explore the root causes of these conflicts, the grievances that remain unresolved, and the broader consequences they have had on national unity and social cohesion. This work is essential to understanding how these moments have shaped the nation and to guiding Fiji's path toward healing and lasting peace.

Q3. How does the Commission plan to engage with individuals and communities across Fiji during its work?

A: We are committed to inclusive national engagement. We will hold private hearings, community dialogues, and outreach sessions in both urban and rural areas. We will also partner with local leaders, civil society groups, and faith-based organisations to ensure broad participation.

Q4. What measures are in place to ensure that participation in the Commission's processes is safe, respectful, and inclusive?

A: We place the voices of survivors and witnesses at the centre of our work. Their lived experiences are vital to fostering accountability, encouraging healing, and building a more united and compassionate society. We provide a safe, respectful, and inclusive space where individuals can share their stories without fear, and where those stories are honoured and heard.

By amplifying these voices, we aim to deepen national understanding and reinforce the collective commitment to peace and reconciliation. At the same time, we recognise that true unity begins within our communities, in our homes, schools, and workplaces. This is why community involvement is essential to the process and we encourage every Fijian to take part in building a future rooted in mutual respect and shared responsibility.

Q5. What approach will the Commission take to documenting and preserving personal testimonies and collective experiences?

A: We will carefully record, archive, and protect all testimonies with the utmost respect and responsibility. These accounts will form part of the historical record, and with

consent, may be included in our final report, exhibitions, or memorial efforts to ensure future generations understand and learn from the past.

Q6. How does the FTRC ensure cultural sensitivity when working with Fiji's diverse ethnic and religious communities?

A: We recognise that reconciliation is a shared national responsibility that must reflect the voices and values of all Fijians. To ensure cultural sensitivity, we will actively engage with a wide range of stakeholders including political leaders, traditional authorities, faith-based groups, civil society, and community representatives from across the country's diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

These partnerships help guide our approach to truth-telling in ways that are respectful, inclusive, and grounded in local contexts. Through ongoing dialogue and collaboration, we work to ensure that the reconciliation process not only honours different cultural traditions and beliefs but also contributes to meaningful policy reform, long-term stability, and inclusive national development. We also welcome the support of international partners and human rights advocates in strengthening these efforts across all communities in Fiji.

The Commission is encouraging members of the public to contact us in relation to any of the above. We look forward to hearing from you.

Reach us by phone, email, or through our Facebook page, where a contact form is also available.

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