

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Fiji Truth Commission Launches Diaspora Dialogue in Auckland, Sets Path for Ongoing Engagement**

**Wednesday, 18 June 2025:** In a significant step toward inclusive national healing, the Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission (FTRC) held its first diaspora engagement in Auckland, New Zealand on Thursday, June 5.

The independent body's engagement session brought together close to 40 attendees and was led by Commissioner Rachna Nath at the Fiji Center in Auckland.

The audience reflected a broad cross-section of the Fijian community in Aotearoa, including faith leaders, women's advocates, former politicians, business professionals, youth organisers, and mental health practitioners.

"This turnout exceeded expectations and affirmed the diaspora's readiness to engage," said Commissioner Nath.

"This is a community with memory, with networks of trust, and with a deep desire to be part of the healing process."

The session introduced the Commission's mandate, outlined the process for submitting testimonies, and highlighted the Commission's survivor-centred, trauma-informed approach.

Printed materials and digital resources were provided, with assurances that all submissions would be treated with confidentiality and care.

Commissioner Nath presented several possible hearing formats, including private, public, thematic, and community-specific sessions, designed to prioritise those most affected by past injustices, especially in known regional "hotspots."

The session also served as a catalyst for collaboration, with several participants offering to support outreach, coordination, and identification of others willing to share their experiences.

Meanwhile, a second, larger diaspora meeting is in the pipeline. The Commission is also exploring private hearings for diaspora members based on online submissions received in the coming months.

“The Fijian diaspora is not just an audience. We see them as active contributors to truth-telling and justice,” Commissioner Nath affirmed.

“This process is about connection, responsibility, and restoring dignity. It must be inclusive to be complete.”

As the FTRC’s work progresses, this engagement marks a concrete move toward ensuring Fiji’s enduring reconciliation journey reflects the voices of its people, both at home and abroad.

### **About FTRC:**

The FTRC is an independent entity set up for truth-telling, reconciliation, and national healing. The mandate of the FTRC is to examine past political upheavals and their impact on people’s lives. The Commission is looking at the physical and emotional harm, loss of life and property, and systemic injustices on people.

The purpose of this work is to foster unity and social cohesion in a society where everyone feels safe, equal, included and able to thrive. The Commission seeks to honour the lived experiences of survivors by providing a platform for voices to be heard, validated, and acknowledged.

The Commission emphasises that truth-telling is not about retribution. It is about recognition, healing, to ensure that history is not repeated. Through reconciliation, the Commission aims to build a stronger, more just, and peaceful Fiji for future generations.

**Note:** 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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