

PRESS RELEASE



From left: The Soulful Connection founder, Joseph Snodgrass and Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission acting Chairperson Sekove Naqiolevu during the signing of Service of Agreement at the FTRC office in Suva on October 29, 2025. *Photo: Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission*

Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission Strengthens Survivor Support

Wednesday, 29 October 2025: The Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission (FTRC) has established a national pool of trained, trauma-aware psychosocial professionals to support people who may require emotional and psychological care as they engage with the Commission's process.

Organisations such as Birth Fiji, The Soulful Connection, Aruka Fiji, and Inner Harmony have partnered with the Commission to ensure that survivors and witnesses have access to safe, confidential, and culturally sensitive wellbeing support throughout their healing journey.

The partnership was formalised today at the FTRC Office in Suva signaling the Commission's survivor-centred approach that ensures those who come forward to share their stories will have access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, mental health and wellbeing care should they wish before, during, and after hearings.

"Our process is built on empathy, dignity, and trust," said Commissioner Rachna Nath. "We understand that sharing deeply personal experiences can be re-traumatising for some, and this partnership ensures that no one walks that journey alone. Every survivor deserves to be heard and supported with compassion and care."

Our psychosocial referral pool will be activated whenever survivors disclose trauma, distress, or other wellbeing needs, ensuring they are referred safely and ethically to trusted providers. In some locations, these providers may also play an ongoing advisory or capacity-building role within community-based settings.

"We recognise that psychosocial needs may continue beyond the life of the Commission and hope this initiative will strengthen long-term mental health infrastructure across Fiji by developing a national pool of trauma-informed professionals, enhancing community based capacity, improving referral systems, and fostering closer collaboration between community support networks and mental health practitioners," said Commissioner Nath.

Aruka Fiji founder, Ratu Inoke Drauna said: "We are deeply honoured to partner with the Fiji TRC in this vital work of healing and restoration. Through this collaboration, we aim to extend continuous mental health support to those affected by trauma, ensuring that no one struggles in silence and that every Fijian can move forward toward psychological well-being and hope."

BIRTH FIJI chief executive officer and founder Satib Nisha Khan, said that BIRTH Fiji's mission has always been to walk alongside individuals and communities in their journey toward recovery, empowerment, and resilience.

"Through this partnership, we will be able to provide much-needed psychosocial and trauma-informed counseling to survivors who are courageously coming forward to share their experiences," Ms Khan added.

The Soulful Connection founder, Joseph Snodgrass, said: "This signing session is a significant step toward the essential work that needs to be done in Fiji. Many of our mental health challenges stem from the unresolved pain of our past, especially the coups, whose impacts have quietly shaped families for generations, making this partnership with the FTRC both timely and deeply important."

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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Source: Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission

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