

Tonga opens first community radio station for women

By Online Editor

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Tongan FemLINK Pacific correspondent, Bale Huni

Tonga will open its first community radio station in a bid to highlight issues affecting women.

The radio station 98FM has begun transmitting but will officially open on March 7 in the lead-up to International Women's Day.

Tongan FemLINK Pacific correspondent Bale Huni was among 25 participants who took part in the Annual Young Women's Media and Advocacy Skills Consultation and Training.

She said there was a lot of support from the civil society and NGOs on the launching of 98FM.

“This is the first time I'm attending this training and what I have learnt so far will greatly boost my work back in Tonga,” Huni said.

“I've learnt the importance of working with other women and also empowering them and how we work together to build a young women's network.”

The radio station broadcasts programs for two hours a day and two days in a week.

“After our official launch next month we're going to broaden our programs because we'll be broadcasting from Monday to Friday,” she said.

While there is a lot of responsibility that comes with being a member of Generation Next, Huni said this had become a challenge to her role.

“One of the major responsibilities is to empower other women especially those in rural areas and to give them the courage to come out and share their experiences. We're just building up and we're going out to communities to ask women to tune into our radio station because we're broadcasting programs that empower them,” she said.

SOURCE: FIJI TIMES/PACNEWS