



Housing forum brings women's leadership from across the Pacific and Canada to address housing

May 19, 2026 | Suva, Fiji

Women Building Futures, a housing forum taking place May 18-21 in Suva, Fiji, is the first of its kind partnership between the Pacific and Canada to address inclusive and climate-resilient housing.

Forty participants from governments and NGOs in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Australia, New Zealand and Canada will meet on the interconnected needs of housing affordability, climate resilience, gender equality, and Indigenous inclusion.

The forum is co-facilitated by Habitat for Humanity Canada and Fiji Women's Rights Movement, with support from Habitat for Humanity Fiji and funding from Global Affairs Canada.

Participants at **Women Building Futures** will document barriers and opportunities to housing with insights that can influence real-world housing policy and programs across the Pacific and Canada. Recommendations will reach government decision-makers, civil society organizations, donors and community leaders at a Pacific Regional Housing Forum taking place in Suva on May 21.

Media Availability

Location: Holiday Inn, Suva

Date: Wednesday May 20

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Media are invited to attend a reception where participants will present findings from the forum. The High Commissioner of Canada to Fiji and leaders from Habitat for Humanity and Fiji Women's Rights Commission will be available for interviews.

Quotes

“Fiji Women's Rights Movement is honoured to host such a diverse and powerful gathering of women and allies from across the Pacific and Canada. Housing is about safety, dignity, security, belonging and much more. Yet we know that women — particularly those facing economic, social and climate vulnerabilities — continue to experience barriers to accessing safe and adequate housing.”

— Nalini Singh, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

“Housing is a frontline defense against climate change impacts in the Pacific that threaten women's lives and livelihoods. Habitat for Humanity Fiji's climate readiness program strengthens the island's climate resilience while safeguarding the environment, health, livelihoods and cultural heritage of its residents. This forum amplifies women's voices in that work.”

— Sangita Kumar, Interim National Director, Habitat for Humanity Fiji

“Habitat for Humanity Canada is pleased to bring Indigenous housing partners from Canada into direct dialogue with Indigenous and community leaders from the Pacific. Canadian participants will return home from the forum with insights that will be transferable to Canadian housing challenges, especially in climate-exposed communities.”

— Stacey Sawchuk, Senior Director of Programs, Habitat for Humanity Canada

About Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Established in 1986, the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) is a multi-ethnic and multicultural non-governmental organisation committed to removing all forms of discrimination against women through institutional reform and attitudinal change. FWRM's vision is for the women of Fiji to be free from all forms of discrimination, have equal access to opportunities and to live in a healthy environment where the principles of feminism, democracy, good governance, multiculturalism, and human rights prevail.

About Habitat for Humanity Fiji

Established in 1991, Habitat for Humanity Fiji is a registered non-profit organization under Fiji's Charitable Trusts Act. Habitat Fiji focuses on housing and community development, disaster resilience and recovery, climate adaptation, and research and advocacy in partnership with low-income families, communities, and other partners. Its work spans urban, rural, and maritime areas, helping communities access improved housing and infrastructure that contribute to safer, dignified and more resilient living environments.

About Habitat for Humanity Canada

Founded in 1985, Habitat for Humanity Canada is a national charity that includes local Habitat organizations working in every Canadian province and the North. Through innovative home construction, repair, and financing, skills training and advocacy, we bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity Canada is a member of Habitat for Humanity International, a leading global non-profit working in more than 60 countries.

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