



WACC Project Support Application

This application should not exceed 15 pages (not counting attachments C 4 and C 5) in font size no smaller than 11 pt. Please keep your application concise and to the point.

(For office use only) Project Number:

Project title	Standing in Solidarity
Full name of your organisation and acronym if you have one	Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)
Person responsible for this project Full name & title (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rev)	Rev Akuila Yabaki Chief Executive Officer
Mailing address of organisation	25 Berry Road, PO Box 12584, Suva Fiji Islands
Phone number with country & city code	(679) 3308379
Fax number with country & city code	(679) 3308380
Email	ayabaki@ccf.org.fj
Website	www.ccf.org.fj
Amount requested (specify currency)	FJD17779
Amount requested in Euros, if known	EUR 7952

Please indicate under which programme area you would like this project to be considered. CHOOSE ONLY ONE.

- Recognising communication rights
- Building communication rights
- Media and gender justice
- Communication for peace**
- Communication and poverty
- HIV and AIDS, communication and stigma
- Ethics of new communication technologies
- Fundamentalisms and the media
- Communication for ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue

WACC's Guidelines for Project Support describe specific project goals under each programme theme. Please indicate below which one this project addresses.

The project, 'Standing in Solidarity', will address the following two goals of the Communication for Peace programme:

- Strengthen media and other communication practices that advance non-violent transformation of local and national conflicts.
- Amplify the voices of women and men working to make peace possible.

Project Summary (YOUR SUMMARY MAY AFFECT DECISIONS ABOUT SUPPORT)

In 200 words or less, please summarise your project. What is the nature of the organization implementing the project? What is the problem the project addresses and in what context? How does the project contribute to changing the situation described? List the activities to be carried out and who the direct beneficiaries are. Conclude with specific outcomes and impact.

The CCF has developed a concept for a quarterly newsletter titled, '*Tutaka*' – Standing in Solidarity (*Ekta*), which would promote and publicise the principles and activities on multiculturalism, democracy, rule of law, religious tolerance, workers rights, poverty and squatter settlements, and grassroots issues. The production of this newsletter, at low cost, would mean relaying of information in these crucial areas, to a large audience. These issues do not get enough coverage in Fiji's daily media. We propose to produce four issues per year.

The second component involves producing pamphlets on Religious Tolerance. The material has been prepared after two seminars on 'Building Religious Tolerance: Religion and Human Rights' through recommendations in their reports. Sacrilege acts happen much too often in Fiji, and this would contribute to educating on respect for beliefs of others. We propose printing of 1000 copies of each vernacular (English, Fijian and Hindi) of these pamphlets.

The third component involves radio advertisements to combat race-based institutions, policies, practices and phobias in Fiji. We propose 30 half-minute slots airing four different adverts on issues of racism, which would be spread out over 8 months.

(See budget below)

Section A ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

A 1 Please briefly describe the **history of your organisation** (when and how founded and by whom)

The CCF first began as an informal association in 1993 to define a national agenda for social and political reform as the basis of new constitutional arrangements. It was formally registered as a charitable organization in 1996. The CCF was instrumental in facilitating dialogue and encouraging consensus between various political parties, religious and community groups during discussions leading up to the adoption of the 1997 Constitution. Since the May 2000 coup the CCF has developed to become the lead organization in the campaign for the restoration of the 1997 Constitution and for the return to parliamentary democracy. It played an important role in the now famous *Chandrika Prasad* case which in March 2001 at the Fiji Court of Appeal reasserted the 1997 Constitution as still the supreme law of the Fiji Islands.

A 2 What are the **main aim(s) of your organisation**?

Broadly speaking, the main aims of the CCF as a Non Government Organisation is to promote the rule of law, including respect for the constitution and the democratic process, to protect and promote human rights and to promote multiculturalism and ethnic group reconciliation in the Fiji Islands.

A 3 What are the **main activities of your organisation**?

The main activities of the CCF could be summarised as follows:

- Public education on the Constitution and human rights through grassroots workshops, and use of media, particularly through the vernacular radio stations and newspapers.
- Advocacy work on protection and promotion of human rights, promotion of constitutional democracies, good governance and multiculturalism.

Research work (and production of educational material) on the constitution, human rights, good governance and multiculturalism.

A 4 Please tell us about your organisation's **experience and expertise relevant to this project.**

Promoting democracy, good governance, rule of law, religious tolerance, economic justice for the poor, and multiculturalism is one of CCF's core aims and is a constant theme of its various public education, advocacy and research work. The CCF has more than 10 years of experience and expertise in this area in Fiji. CCF has been at the forefront of work which encouraged the formulation of Fiji's widely-hailed 1997 Constitution, in organising workshops seminars and events on religious tolerance and speaking out against racism and sacrilege.

A 5 If your organisation has experience relevant to this project, please comment on your **successes, failures, challenges and lessons learned.**

The CCF is recognised as Fiji's leading NGO on advocacy for constitutional democracies, human rights, multiculturalism, religious tolerance and good governance. The CCF is also a regular participant on the daily vernacular Fijian talk back shows on these recurring themes. It makes regular visit to both urban and rural schools, as part of its grassroots education programme on the constitution and human rights. We still have coups in Fiji unfortunately despite these efforts, the most recent coup only in 2006. The challenge for the CCF is to continue to find ways to work with Government authorities, NGOs, institutions and grassroots communities, on values, to build ethnic and racial tolerance and respect. The lesson learnt from Fiji's recent turbulent political history is that we need to build for a stable, peaceful and tolerant society, and we need to start with our children to accomplish this.

A 6 Please describe the **staff and management** structure of your organisation. Please mention numbers of male and female staff in management positions.

There are altogether 4 full-time members of staff. We have a Chief Executive Officer, a Communications and Advocacy Officer, one administrative officer, and one regional peace programme coordinator. We have a part-time finance person. There are three female members of staff and they hold the posts of Communications and Advocacy Officer, administrative officer, and regional peace programme coordinator. The CCF is managed by a Steering Committee of around 20 members that meet fortnightly to decide on matters concerning the organisation. The current chair of the Steering Committee is Ms Jane Ricketts who has been with CCF since its inception in 1993.

A 7 Please describe any ongoing **cooperation** your organisation has with church-related institutions and other non-governmental organisations.

The CCF has worked closely with ECREA which was formerly the Fiji Council of Churches Research Unit on production of a multiculturalism booklet, religious tolerance, Christian fundamentalism, poverty, economic justice and squatter settlement issues. The CCF through its executive director has also maintained close cooperation with the World Council of Churches, the Methodist Mission in London, Christian churches in Germany/EED, the Pacific Theological College and many other different religious groups and institutions in Fiji and abroad. CCF is also the regional coordinator for the Global Programme for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), a UN supported global programme against armed conflict and which recently held its global conference at the UN Headquarters in NY last month, July 2005.

Section B ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

B 1 Country or Region of the project

Fiji Islands, Asia Pacific Region.

B 2 **Amount requested** in your national currency and the equivalent in Euros, if known. Please quote the exchange rate you use for the Euro amount.

Your national currency (please name):	Amount:FJD17,779
Euros:	Amount, if known:EUR7,952
Exchange rate, if known	.4473

B 3 Please indicate the **period for which you are requesting support**

From: (Month and year) January 2008 To: (Month and year) December 2008

B 4 Please tell us about the **starting date flexibility** of your project in case WACC needs more time to raise funds to support it.

CCF could possibly allow for a delay of up to 3 months. However, we would really appreciate it, if the project could start on time so it can also be completed in time.

B 5 Please briefly state the **problem your project aims to address**.

There are a number of basic problems that the project seeks to address. They are as follows:

- Lack of understanding of democracy, good governance, rule of law;
- Lack of understanding, appreciation, respect and tolerance for other peoples cultures and traditions;
- Ignorance often leads to violation of human rights and misinformation being spread.

Racial bigotry, racial intolerance, and in the case of Fiji, where so much of politics is based on race, political instability and doom for the country.

B 6 What will be the **overall impact** of your project on the problem it seeks to address?

CCF hopes the project will:

- Provide people with an alternative source of information on democracy, accountability and transparency, economic justice, and human rights.
- Encourage understanding, respect, and closer cooperation between Fiji's many religions and cultural groups.
- Raise consciousness and social responsibility of people.

B 7 Please briefly state your project's **short-term objective** in addressing the problem.

The short term objective is to provide people with information on these issues, in an alternative media way, as such information is not available in the daily media.

B 8 Briefly state your project's **long-term objective** in addressing the problem.

In the long term, the CCF hopes and believes that Fiji's people will come to understand the meaning of true democracy, rebuild a culture of mutual understanding, peace, good will and respect for human rights. Young people are the future of any nation, and the quicker civic values including respect for others' cultures, traditions, and human rights are understood, the better prepared Fiji as a nation will be to combat racism and extreme ethno nationalism.

B 9 Please briefly tell us how your project and the problem it addresses relate to the **socio-economic, political, cultural, gender, church and media situation (as applicable to your project)** in your country or region.

Fiji is a relatively new nation, having attained independence from Great Britain in 1970. It has a population of around 850,000 people. Indigenous Fijians make up slightly over 50 percent, while the other major ethnic group, the Indo Fijians, about 45 percent. The rest is made up of people of mixed European and local descent, commonly known as Part Europeans, Chinese, Melanesians and other Pacific Islanders. Much of the recent decline in the Indo Fijian population (used to be 53 percent a decade ago) could be attributed to the mass exodus of Indo Fijian professionals during and after the two coups of 1987 and 2000.

Politics in Fiji is conducted mostly along racial lines, even much more so now after the two ethno nationalist coups of 1987 and 2000. Voting is still largely conducted along racial lines under a communal electoral system despite calls by liberal elements for a common roll. The present SDL government is an indigenous Fijian one, with much of its economic and social development policies to date, like the affirmative action programmes for indigenous Fijians and Rotumans, are designed in the main to meet the demands and interests of the nationalist indigenous elite and the business supporters of the May 2000 coup.

Although Fiji is slightly more economically developed than most other South Pacific nations it does have its share of unemployment and poverty. A 1996 UNDP Report on Poverty stated that about 25 percent of all households in Fiji were living in poverty and thousands more susceptible to sliding into poverty. Unofficial estimates by Ngos and community based organizations put the current poverty figure in Fiji, after the instabilities of May 2000, at around 50 percent. Fiji's economy is still reeling from the effects of 2000 coup. Economic recovery and a return to pre 2000 coup status will take a long time. Some economists believe that Fiji's economy took more than a decade to recover from the destabilizing effects of the earlier 1987 coup.

The 1996 UNDP Poverty Report also showed that Fiji is also a very unequal society and the gap between the rich and the poor increasing all the time. The Poverty Report showed that in 1996 about half of all households in Fiji receive just over one-fifth of all income, while the other half receive almost four fifths. The top ten percent of households receive 35 percent of the total income, while the lowest ten percent receive less than 2 percent of all income earned in Fiji. Again, this situation has worsened since the May 2000 instabilities. People slide into poverty, the Report added, not because of lack of employment opportunities, but mainly because of low or poverty wages, citing that a total of 83 percent of heads of poor households were in work.

Thousands of Fiji's cane farmers, the majority of them Indo Fijians, and who form the backbone of Fiji's main foreign currency earner, sugar, also face an uncertain future. Thousands have seen their farm leases not being renewed by indigenous Fijians landowners, resulting in an increasing number of farms being left uncultivated and reverting to bushes. Over two thousand displaced Indo Fijian cane farmers, and their families have now moved into Fiji's main urban centers like Suva and Lautoka since their agricultural leases started expiring in 1997, now competing for scarce jobs and under-funded public services like water, health care, electricity and education. Non-renewal of leases to Indo Fijian cane farmers has contributed significantly to the mushrooming of squatter settlements in urban centres around Fiji.

Fiji is a country of many cultures, traditions and religions. The freedom to conduct and observe one's own religion or culture is entrenched under the country's 1997 Constitution. However, Fiji society is still trying to recover from the destruction of the 2000 coup and prior to that the 1987 coup. Reconciliation and rebuilding goodwill and trust between the mainly Indo Fijian victims and the mainly Indigenous Fijian perpetrators of the coup related violence that swept the country in 2000 will take some time. This multiculturalism booklet will therefore be essential material and resource to Fiji secondary school students in helping young people (ages 13-15) enhance an appreciation of the many cultures and traditions of Fiji. In the long-term we hope that it could contribute in some ways to rebuilding a culture of peace and respect for each other's traditions, cultures and human rights in Fiji.

The 1997 Constitution also ensures the *freedom of the press* although the Government's ownership of shares in Fiji's only TV station and in the country's main radio station does put certain restrictions on this freedom for these two main media outlets. Some commentators have also argued that news reporting and journalism standards in Fiji is generally not as critical and fall way below the standards of comparable regional countries like PNG for example.

The three main religions in Fiji also have a racial following. While most indigenous Fijians are members of the Methodist church and various denominations of the Christian religion, the majority of Indo Fijians are mostly Hindus and Muslims. The then leadership of the predominantly indigenous Fijian Methodist Church in Fiji were known supporters of the unlawful seizure of Parliament in May 2000. Certain elements within the present Methodist Church leadership continue to fan the waves of ethno/religious racism in the country, and undermining religious tolerance and rights as enshrined under the 1997 Constitution, in their quest for Fiji to become a Christian State.

There is also strong support within their ranks for the pardoning of George Speight, the 2000 coup leader, and all those who were or will be convicted (including certain chiefs and some prominent indigenous Fijians) in their role in supporting the illegal seizure of parliament, including the botched mutiny at the army barracks in November 2000. Fiji's military is a 98 percent indigenous Fijian institution. The country's sizeable army, which is one of the largest in the world per population, was involved in both coups of 1987 and 2000, and will continue to be a source of insecurity in the future. Although the Army can sometimes be seen to be on the side of the people (as in its current strong opposition to the planned release of the 2000 coup perpetrators), however, ultimately it is the people themselves, through education, can be the only guarantors for respect for traditional values, cultures and human rights. A project such as this multiculturalism booklet, the CCF hopes could in some way contribute towards achieving these universal goals for Fiji.

The most recent military takeover in Fiji, on 5 December 2006, has shown that the battle towards democracy, racial and religious tolerance is far from over. We still have a long way to go. CCF has been a vocal critique of the December 2006 coup and CCF has been at the forefront of advocacy for human rights and the rule of law to be respected, as well as demanding for a return to elections and parliamentary democracy as soon as practicable.

B 10 Beneficiaries

Please describe the cultural, ethnic, social, economic and political status (where applicable) of the target groups and indicate the number of the intended female and male participants and/or direct beneficiaries. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.

The main beneficiaries of the three activities will be the general population of Fiji, who listen to the radio. The other beneficiaries will be school students, grassroots communities, other NGOs, donor agencies, and the public and private sectors. The different religious organisations will also benefit.

An appreciation of each other's cultures and religions is important in fostering greater understanding and respect amongst Fiji's multiethnic and multicultural societies. A greater awareness of democracy, good governance, economic justice and human rights issues will contribute to having better citizens of the country in future.

B 11 What will be the different effects or impact of your project for women and men?

The CCF hopes that women and men will benefit equally from the information disseminated in the newsletter, pamphlet and in the radio adverts. It is hoped that the project would lead to increased understanding, tolerance and respect for each other amongst all women and men, of all the ethnicities, racial groups and diverse cultures of Fiji.

B 12 Please briefly list the outputs of your project. (Outputs are short-term immediate, visible consequences (results) of completed project activities.)

The main outputs of this project are:

- four issues of the newsletter: 'Standing in Solidarity'
- 1000 copies each of pamphlets on Religious Tolerance in the English, Fijian and Hindi languages.
- 4 sets of advertisements on four aspects of racism. Each set will be aired in a different month, with one month in between left blank to measure impact (therefore, spread out over eight months).

B 13 Please briefly list the outcomes of your project. (Outcomes are the medium-term results of the project that are the logical consequence of achieving the output(s). This is what you hope to accomplish during the life of project.)

The main outcome of the project is the completion of all the above work, which will contribute to effectively achieving the overall objectives of CCF as an organisation that works to advocate and educate on the Constitution, democracy, human rights, religious and racial tolerance and multiculturalism in Fiji.

B 14 Please describe ecumenical involvement in the planning and development of the project, if applicable. (WACC does not support strictly denominational activities.)

The CCF has worked closely in partnership with Inter-Faith search Fiji in conducting the seminars on Religious Tolerance and in compiling the Religious Tolerance brochure. CCF also works in collaboration with ECREA and Inter-Faith search, on religious issues.

B 15 If you will be working with **partner organisations** in planning and implementing the project, please explain who they are and how you will work with them.

For the Religious Tolerance brochure, CCF has worked in partnership with Inter-Faith Search, Fiji.

B 16 Project Activities

Please list and describe the activities that will lead to your project's outputs and outcomes. Use as much space as you need, taking care that the entire application does not exceed 15 pages. Please include information on

- how the project planning and implementation will involve women and men at all levels of decision-making and participation, if applicable
- content of production, programmes, workshops or training
- timetable for the project to be carried out and for submitting narrative and financial reports
- staff involved in the implementation and supervision of the project (please give name and job title)

The activities are as described in the Project Summary on Page 2.

B 17 Evaluation

Please describe the criteria, method and frequency of project evaluation and who will do it. If the project lasts longer than one year, explain how overall evaluation will be accomplished, and in which year.

<p>We will have a reader survey in the first and last issue of the newsletter for the year 2008, to determine and evaluate.</p> <p>We will conduct informal sessions during religious activities and events, to evaluate the effectiveness of the religious tolerance brochures.</p> <p>The listeners feedback on the radio will let us know the impact of the radio adverts. Normally, the radio stations provide you with listener feedback.</p>
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B 18 Self-reliance

Describe how this project will achieve its goals using local financial and other resources, such as in kind contributions and men’s and women’s knowledge/expertise.

<p>The CCF staff will produce the newsletter and religious tolerance brochure, by sourcing and compiling information.</p> <p>The CCF staff will prepare the content of the radio advertisements, which will then be recorded, animated and broadcasted by radio station.</p>	
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B 19 References

Please provide name and address, phone, fax, and email of two people who are not directly related to the project but who know about it.

Father Kevin Barr

Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECCREA)
184 Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji Islands.
Ph: (679) 3307588, Fax: (679) 3311248, email: kjbarr@ecrea.org.fj

Christine Harris

World Church Office (Asia-Pacific Desk)
Methodist Church, Britain
25 Marylebone Road
London, NW1 5JR
United Kingdom

Section C ABOUT YOUR BUDGET

C 1 Project Budget

Please use the table below to present your itemised income and expenditure budget for this particular project in local currency, including local / own contribution and other sources. Please make sure that your budget items clearly relate to the project activities described above.

Expenditure	Local Currency Name: Fijian dollars		
Item Description	Total Cost	Local Contribution & Other Sources	Requested From WACC
Quarterly Newsletter	4083		4083
Religious Tolerance Brochures	4963		4963
Radio Advertisements	8733		8733
Note: CCF will provide local contribution costs by providing personnel and utilities costs			
Total Expenditure	17779		7952

Income	Total Amount (FJD)
Requested from WACC	17779
Local / Own Contribution	7900
Other Sources*	0
Total Income	FJD25679

*For other sources, please list below the name(s) of donor agency and the amount. Please also indicate whether the funding is requested or confirmed.

Other Sources Name of Source/Donor Agency	Amount
Total Other Resources	

C 2 What **portion of your organisation's overall budget** is this project budget?

20% of overall budget

C 3 **Financial history of your organisation** Please describe sources of income, both local and overseas, over the last two to three years.

European Union funding – 2004-2006 extended to August 2007 (now concluded – no new funding) NZAID – 2006-2008 AusAid – 2007-2010 Misereor – 2007-2010 – proposal submitted awaiting response

C 4 Please forward **recent accounts** (audited, if available) of the organisation

- Attached
- To follow separately
- Not available

C-5 If the project involves **equipment purchase**, please provide a pro forma invoice.

- Attached
- To follow separately