



YOUNG WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP



# EXECUTIVE REPORT





## 5 Stop the violence

YWPG stands for Human Rights for West Papua during 2015 International Women's Day

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YWPG starts Thematic Areas idea this year into three Themes: Women in Leadership, Policy & Legislation, Communications

This is a series of YWPG Executive's yearly reports compiled in magazine style. It will showcase activities, which YWPG and its members took part in, in the course of a year.

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YWPG presented the Regional Conference for women leaders



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## Publication

Cover Photo: YWPG member poses with slogans after the march opening 16 Days of Activism.

Cover photographer: Christopher Baerii

Design & Editing: Kyera Varnel

Photographers: Christopher Baerii, Kyera Varnel, Parliament Media

Welcome to the first issue of the Executive's report.

Continuing to make a difference was truly the spark of 2015. The new Executive of YWPG, chaired by Lysa Wini-Simeon drove this continuity into new areas this year. The idea of YWPG functioning in three Thematic Areas was initiated, with new challenges.

As we explore the year in Summary, we remind ourselves of countless others who continue to make a difference in the lives of Solomon Islanders daily.

Enjoy this issue as you feel inspired to make a difference in your own way.

## EDITORIAL



# Executive meets with PM

*Story and Photo by Chris Leua*

*Assistant Press Secretary to Prime Minister*

**The Executive of Young Women's Parliamentary Group (YWPG) made a courtesy call to the Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare on 9th February to present its members as well as their annual program.**

Chairlady, Lysa Wini said YWPG has just elected the new Executive for 2015 and the group will continue to nurture young women leaders to influence government policies and legislations.

In presenting YWPG's annual program for 2015, Executive's Secretary Alicia Hilly-Kenilorea said the first priority project for this year is to set out YWPG's organizational structure.

She said other priorities this year includes capacity building and strengthening its communication strategies so that it can take active participation in communicating women's leadership issues.

YWPG Advisor and Parliament's Civic Education Officer, Marisa Pepa briefed the PM about YWPG's role.

Ms Pepa said the group works closely with other organizations dealing with women's issues. These include the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, National Council of Women (NCW), UN Women and others where their annual work program is aligned with these organizations and the National Parliament.

In welcoming the group, Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare congratulated the new Executive and encouraged them to continue doing the tremendous tasks ahead in prepar-



From left, Grace Hilly (former Chair), Alicia Hilly-Kenilorea (Secretary), Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, Lysa Wini (Chairlady), Kyera Varnel (Executive member), Kristina Sogavare (former Chair) and Marisa Pepa (YWPG Advisor)

ing and empowering women in taking up leadership at the national level.

Hon. Sogavare said the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) is the coordinating ministry for all other government ministry and by maintaining contact with the OPMC, YWPG's mission and visions can be achieved without having to debate issues in the media, which has been the practice in the past with some women organizations.

He said the Democratic Coalition for Change Government is looking at reviewing the Electoral laws of the country to ensure that women have an equal chance of participating in decision-making at the national level.

## YWPG Patrons



Current Patrons of YWPG are PM Manasseh Sogavare (left), Speaker of National Parliament



Ajilon Nasitu (right), and Parliamentary House Committee.

*Photos from SI Parliament & Anthroscap websites*





During the International Women's Day (IWD) on March 10, 2015 in Honiara, YWPG members marched with the slogan "Stop the violence" under the Make It Happen theme of Solomon Islands' IWD celebration.

YWPG was joined by supporters from the public and West Papuan activists.

YWPG has made a bold stand that violations against human rights in West Papua, as witnessed on the media and social media must stop.

The group has become one of the associate members of the Solomon Islands Solidarity for West Papua Movement (SISWPM).

*Photos by Christopher Baerii*

Free West Papua supporters and activists during the IWD opening event on March 10.



YWPG's newest members (left photo), Parliament staff Albert Kabui & Sunjay Dhari (top left photo), Marisa Pepa YWPG Advisor briefs public on YWPG and its stand (top right photo) during the IWD commemoration.



YWPG members pose with activists Jacob Rumbiak (centre left), a West Papuan academic and political leader; and West Papua activism team photographer Tommy (centre right).



# Girls in Front Film Festival

*Girls in Front is a collection of films that celebrates heroines of the big screen. From fearless youngsters to hopeless romantics and dreamers of all ages.*

This Film Festival was a project, which Melbourne University initiated early 2015. It was an evening film screening event, which YWPG assisted in its set-up during the International 16 Days of Activism in Honiara.

Films screened were "The Sapphires" on Friday 27 (Art Gallery Auditorium) and Sunday 29 November (Meeting Point, Mokolo Building); and "Brave" on Saturday 28 (Art Gallery Auditorium) together with an animation workshop for children aged 6—12.

The collaborative effort for this event is credited to The University of Melbourne, ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), Creative Victoria, National Parliament of SI, and Australian High Commission.



## The Sapphires

*Inspired by a true story*

2012, 103mins, Aus.

Genre: Comedy/Drama

Director: Wayne Blair

In 1968, four vivacious, young, musically talented Australian Aboriginal sisters from a remote mission have their singing dreams since childhood come true. They are discovered after a talent show by a good-humored talent scout Dave (Chris O'Dowd). Cynthia (Miranda Tapsell), Gail (Deborah Mailman), Julie (Jessica Mauboy) and Kay (Shari Sebbens) make their all girl group *The Sapphires*, and Dave, as their manager books their first true gig to entertain the U.S. troops in Vietnam. As they travel, they experience a taste of stardom, love, friendship and war.

## Film-makers meet YWPG Executive

Melbourne University's Professor Jeanette Hoon (curator, art and film historian) and Barbara Creed (Professor of Cinema Studies), and Helen Simondson (Screen Events Manager at the Australian Centre for Moving Image (ACMI)) briefly met with YWPG Executive and Advisor.



## Brave

2012, 93mins, USA.

Genre: Animation

Director: Mark Andrews,  
Brenda Chapman

Merida, the impulsive, young daughter of King Fergus and Queen Elinor, is determined to carve her own path in life. Defying age-old and sacred customs, Merida's actions inadvertently unleash chaos and fury with the other Scottish Lords. She then stumbles upon an eccentric, wise old woman who grants her ill-fated wish. The ensuing peril forces Merida to discover the true meaning of bravery in order to undo a beastly curse before it's too late.

They discussed the opportunity to further collaborate with YWPG on exploring the avenue of film-making as a way for young Solomon Islands women to express themselves and tell their story. It is an agenda that will be pursued further.



Film Festival organizers Professor Jeanette Hoon and Barbara Creed with Kristina Soga-vare (YWPG's focal point for Film Fest) and Hilda Kosiia (YWPG's Comms team member) during the opening of 16 Days of Activism in Honiara.



# Orange it up!

*YWPG joined other organizations to mark the International 16 Days of Activism against domestic & gender-based violence*

The bright, sunny Friday morning matched the mood of the 16 Days of Activism's opening event around 8am. Bustling with over 100 people wearing orange clothes ready to march along Honiara's road to the beat of the police marching brass band.

On November 27, 2015 YWPG members joined others from human rights organizations, NGOs and government departments to march in support of 16 Days from HCC grounds to Art Gallery.

16 Days closed 10 December with a candle-light vigil at Art Gallery.

YWPG has been a strong supporter for ending violence against women and girls.

*Photos by Christopher Baerii*



16 Days Activism march ends at Art Gallery. It was from 27 Nov—10 Dec 2015



Kristina Sogavare and Film Festival organizers join march



Grace Hilly (YWPG member) with Miss Solomon and pageants before march



YWPG Advisor Marisa Pepa and Kristina brief Prime Minister on YWPG and film festival.

YWPG members at the stall to promote the film festival (right).



YWPG members & supporters join the march to Art Gallery



Banner and theme of the 16 Days of Activism



# Regional Women's Conference introduced to YWPG



Chairlady Lysa & Secretary Alicia during Q&A session

On 3rd June 2015, the Regional Conference for Women's Leadership and Political Participation was introduced to YWPG at the FFA Conference centre in Honiara .

YWPG's Chairlady Lysa Wini-Simeon, Secretary Alicia Hilly-Kenilorea and Advisor Marisa Pepa presented YWPG's role and activities since its inception in 2011.



Advisor Marisa briefs Conference about YWPG

Questions and suggestions were raised with interest as YWPG was seen as a unique initiative that has potential to develop future women leaders and political participation.

The Conference had high level delegates, women and men leaders from the region, Solomon Islands public and associative sectors. These were Ministers, Members of Parliaments, Heads of Women's associations, representatives of international organizations, judicial, business and academic sectors.



YWPG members volunteering at the Registration desk

YWPG members who volunteered, with a member of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (centre front)



Kristina Sogavare contributing to Q&A session



Delegates who attended the YWPG presentation



# Thematic Areas



*YWPG ventured into three thematic areas — Women In Leadership (WIL), Policy & Legislation (PL) and Communications*

## Women in Leadership



Women in Leadership looked into the types of structure YWPG can adopt to operate. Based on this, they will make submissions to the patrons.

The team's main focus is to nurture young women in leadership. The plan was to start this with its team members. It also started its Empowerment series with UN Women. They will also look into political leadership prospects.

One of its major activities this year was its Leadership awareness session with High School girls. It successfully piloted this with Burnscreek H.S senior girls.

Team members are Alicia Hilly Keniorea (team leader), Lysa Wini-Simeon, Ella Wairiu, Errinah Lawrence, Joycelyn Fal-lows, Janet Oge, Jennifer Tura, Jennifer Anisi, Kristina Soga-vare.

This is part of the 2015-16 Executive's priority project to set out YWPG's organizational structure. During its second group meeting, YWPG divided into three teams, the WIL, PL and Comms teams.

## Policy and Legislation



Policy and Legisla-tion's main focus is develop policies and legislations that YWPG would active-ly pursue at Parlia-ment and govern-ment levels.

The team's mem-bers are Marisa

Pepa (team leader), Kimberly Dauara, Cindy Keketaovia, Koisau Sade, McQueen Kaipua, Joy Angi, Salome Pilumate, Samantah Hazel Tara, Vanessa Rodie.

## Communications

Communication's focus for 2015 was to carry out media and publicity for YWPG.

The team designed its Action Plan (CAP'15) with the overall objective to communicate and raise awareness on YWPG, its role and work through appropriate media in an effective manner.

It started a broadcast group where team members practiced anchoring on YWPG segments in National Parlia-ment's radio program on SIBC. Members were also involved various national activities YWPG took part in.

The team members are Kyera



Varnel (team leader), Grace Hilly, Fiona Turanga, Christo-pher Baerii, June Muatai, Rem-ina Bako, Josie Ashley and Hilda Kosiaca.



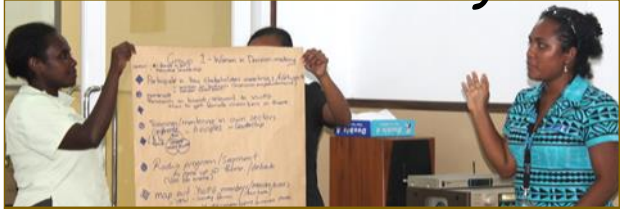
# Leadership series

with *Burnscreek High School* senior girls

Women in Leadership (WIL) team conducted a successful 40min Leadership awareness session with over 20 female students from Burnscreek High School.

This is part of YWPG's campaign to instill leadership awareness in school children so that they can begin to think about leadership roles in their families, communities and even nationally.

The objective of the session is to engage and empower young girls to think leader-



WIL Team leader Alicia Hilly-Kenilorea during planning session of WIL's activities during YWPG Group Meeting Workshop early 2015.

ship. It was interactive, focusing on knowing oneself and learning about leadership.

This session was conducted by Kristina Sogavare, Lysa Wini-Simeon, Alicia Hilly-Kenilorea and Christopher

Baerii.

The team will organize two more sessions with the school to build a relationship and provide learning required to draft Leadership Awareness manual.

## YWPG REPRESENTED ABROAD



Ms. Marisa Pepa attended the Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference in New Zealand Parliament in Wellington.

She was invited to be part of a panel to share on how the Solomon Islands Parliament engages young people and young women in the Parliamentary democratic process.

She shared the YWPG platform and most inter-



**Kristina Sogavare**  
(YWPG member)  
was invited to the  
Lowy Institute's

Melanesian New Voices Conference on June 23, 2015 at Port Vila, Vanuatu.

It was meeting for emerging leaders from Melanesia to pave the way forward for the next generation of leaders.

Kristina represented YWPG in this.

estingly Solomon Islands is the only Parliament in the region including Australia & New Zealand that has a gender program.

Ms. Pepa is the advisor to the Young Women's Parliamentary Group.

She works as the Chief Parliamentary Civic Education Officer at the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.



# Who are we?

## Introducing Young Women's Parliamentary Group



First group meeting photo in February 2015



Second group meeting photo in May 2015

*A forum where young women and men coming from various fields in public, private and voluntary, experience and take part in leadership.*

### **Purpose:**

*To influence government policies and legislation*

### **Mission:**

*Creating space for young women to experience and participate in leadership*

### **Vision:**

*Recognize, allow and build emerging young women leaders to reach their full potential to positively influence their communities*

*Networking young women with current leaders to enhance and develop them in leadership*

## **Background**

YWPG is an initiative of Parliament, formed in 2011. It was originally set up as an institution to nurture young women leaders. This is the first step since independence, Parliament took to help increase gender representation.

It comes from Parliament's Strategic Plan:

Outcome 4.2: to engage young people in the work of Parliament.

Outcome 4.3: to investigate options to increase the representative nature of Parliament.

YWPG meets in a parliamentary setting, recognizing SI Parliament as the preeminent symbol of national democratic legitimacy. During the course of YWPG's work, young men were invited to join as champions and supporters of gender equality in leadership. The group is unique because it is based in Parliament and has direct contact with Parliament Members.



Chairlady Lysa (left) and Secretary Alicia (right) with Nicole Hirst of DFAT (Australia High Commission) during networking drinks at Heritage Park.

### **YWPG Executive 2015-16**

Lysa Wini-Simeon (Chairlady)  
Alicia Hilly-Kenilorea (Secretary)  
Clarinda Molia (Member)  
Kyera Varnel (Member)  
Kimberley Dauara (Member)

*YWPG Executive manages the group's programs. Since it is a voluntary group, the Executive meets once a month or when required.*





## Work Summary

January to December 2015

# Events Accomplished

Group/Team	Activity	Summary	Date
Women in Leadership Team (Thematic Area)	1. Leadership Workshop	• Team leader attended Leadership Workshop arranged by US Embassy-PNG program at HP and Lime Lounge	14 & 15 Mar
	2. Women and Leadership School Awareness program	• Team undertook a pilot program with over 20 <u>Burnscreek</u> High School female students; did a 40min Leadership awareness session	12 Oct
Policy & Legislation Team (Thematic Area)	1. CSO CEDAW Committee Meeting	• Conducted by NCW and WRAM to report on the "CEDAW Concluding Observations" for Solomon Islands	29 Apr
	2. Website Launch for Ministry of Women	• Team leader attended; as a MWYCA is a key stakeholder for YWPG	13 May
	3. GEWD National Policy Review Consultation	• Feedback presentation from GEWD consultant; Team leader attended	30 Jul
	4. Land Reform Conference at FFA Conference	• Team members were assigned.	26 Aug
Communications Team (Thematic Area)	1. Coverage of Women and Leadership School Awareness program	• Team member accompanied WIL team to cover event at <u>Burnscreek</u> High School	12 Oct
	2. 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls / gender-based	• Covered events with photos; Updates on FB Page; YWPG <u>Comms</u> team member also involved in the LOC.	25 Nov-10 Dec
YWPG Group	1. International Women's Day Event	• YWPG members marched plus supporters of Free West Papua Movement (Jacob Rumbiak, Matt Gale & <u>Tony</u> ) themed "Stop the violence - Making it happen"	10 Mar



Surveyors under Y@W receive certificates during presentation of Voter Behavior Survey report at Paul Tovua complex (PTC)



Presentations during 1st Group meeting workshop on 20 February at PTC

2. West Papua agenda	• Letter to PM requesting Govt considers West Papua's MSG member application • Members to lobby other members, Dep Speaker, Dep PM, Members of Parliamentary House committee.	Apr - June
3. Regional Meeting on Women's Leadership & Political participation	• YWPG Members participated in ushering guests during the Conference • Members of the Executive presented YWPG's work on Day 2 of the Conference	2 - 4 June
3. Launching of EVAW Toolkit launch	• Chairlady, Secretary and some members attended; initiated Orange Day	27 Jul
4. Demonstration Free Media Access West Papua	• YWPG Members attend SI Solidarity for Free West Papua; Wear Black at Museum • Photos posted on FB page	29 Apr
5. Meeting with new US Deputy Consulate to SI	• Marisa, Kristina and Josie attended • Discussed with Consulate, YWPG work	22 Sept

## Work Summary

January to December 2015

# Events Accomplished



Group/Team	Activity	Summary	Date
YWPG Group	6. Pink October	• YWPG's ongoing Breast Cancer campaign. Members (30 and above) were invited to do a mammogram screening	22 Oct
	7. 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls / gender-based	• Members attended both the opening and the closing of the event	25 Nov-10 Dec
	8. Girls in Front Film Festival	• Members attended event	27-29 Nov
	9. Australian High Commission's networking drinks at Heritage Park Hotel poolside	• Members attend networking drinks at Heritage Park Hotel poolside	4 Dec
	10. International Day on Anti-Corruption March from HCC to the National Art Gallery	• YWPG members join the march and event at Art Gallery	9 Dec
	11. Orange Day	• YWPG members wore orange clothing (Promote EVAWG on FB profiles)	25 Aug, 25 Sept, 25 Oct, 25 Nov
YWPG Executive	1. Commonwealth Day Event	• Chairlady & Secretary attend this event at the British High Commission residence	5 Mar
	2. Consultation on West Papua	• Chairlady/Marisa attend consultations on West Papua's plight and fight for Independence & Setting up the SI Free West Papua Movement	20 Mar
	3. The Women and Nature forum convened by the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)	• Chairlady facilitated • The event logistics and note taking was done by 2 YWPG members	13 Aug
	4. Courtesy meeting with US Ambassador	• Chairlady, Marisa and Kristina met US Ambassador, Walter North at the National Parliament	16 Nov
	5. Reception for Minister for International Development and Pacific, Hon Steve Ciobo	• Chairlady attended welcome reception at the Australian High Commissioner's Residence	10 Dec



Pink Ribbon: Grace Hilly (centre), Marisa Pepa (left), Fiona Turanga (back) in front of the mammogram machine with Mrs Mary Gurusu, Mammogram Supervisor.



YWPG reps Kristina Sogavare, Josie Anne Ashley & Marisa Pepa meet with US Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Joel Maybury and US Consular agent to Solomon Islands Mrs Keithie Saunders.



## Work Summary

January to December 2015

# Work Accomplished

Group/Team	Activity	Summary	Date
Women in Leadership Team (Thematic Area)	1. Regional Meeting on Women's Leadership & Political participation	• Team leader initiated discussions with UN Women and YWPG for collaborative work	10 Apr
	2. PLP Discussions	• Chairlady and Secretary attended • Discussed YWPG views on actively promote youth membership to where they can learn and be empowered to participate in parliamentary processes	25 Jun
	3. Mapping out YWPG Membership	• Members filled forms during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Group Meeting	9 Jul
	4. WIL Team Meeting	• Team meeting on action plan	2 Sept
	5. WIL Team releases Plan	• Team leader WIL sent Plan to Executive	3 Sept
Policy & Legislation Team (Thematic Area)	1. Short bus routes Meeting with DPM	• YWPG Advisor and Reps meet with DPM to discuss Short bus routes agenda	24 Feb
	2. Health and Medical Services Committee Inquiry	• Team leader attended	18 Aug
Communications Team (Thematic Area)	1. 1 <sup>st</sup> <u>Comms</u> Team meeting	• Discuss <u>Comms</u> Action Plan (CAP'15) • Team members volunteer on assignments	22 Jul
	2. 2 <sup>nd</sup> <u>Comms</u> Team brief meeting	• Adopted CAP'15; confirmed assignments of tasks; initiate broadcast group	21 Aug
	3. Breast and Cervical Cancer campaign	• Liaised with MHMS on statistics info and NRH on mammogram – Fiona, Grace, Josie	Sept
	4. Radio Segment ( <u>Parl</u> /SIBC)	• 1 <sup>st</sup> Radio segment scripting; recorded and aired on Parliament's program regarding Thematic teams; Chris anchored	13 Sept
		• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Radio segment scripting; recorded and aired on Parliament's program regarding Short Bus Routes; Hilda anchored • Facilitated by <u>Parl</u> Broadcast Section & Marisa; Team leader drafted script • Radio program aired Sunday 8:30pm	27 Sept
	5. Broadcast group brief meeting	• Discussed broadcast/capacity-building; Kyera, Chris, <u>Remina</u> , Hilda	17 Sept
	6. 16-Day Meeting/Film Festival discussions	• <u>Comm</u> 's member Grace updates Executive: YWPG needs to finalise dates & venue of Film Fest. Mock debate if approved; confirm dates, topic to MWYCA or LOC; Orange <u>color</u> on FB Profiles	22 Sept
YWPG Group	1. 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarterly Group Meeting/Workshop	• YWPG members discuss Annual Work-plan 2015	20 Feb
	2. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Group Meeting	• Executive present Strategic work-plan 2015; Thematic areas - WIL, PL & <u>Comms</u> teams formed	9 July
	3. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Group Meeting	• Updates on work progress for 2015 • Upcoming Film Festival updates	8 Oct
YWPG Executive	1. 1 <sup>st</sup> Executive meeting	• Introductions & Endorse workshop plans	18 Feb
	2. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Executive meeting	• Work-plan 2015; assigned Executive roles & responsibilities	27 Feb
	3. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Executive meeting	• Work-plan strategy 2015 & briefed of <u>Comms</u> plan	6 Mar
	4. Courtesy call to PM	• New Executive met with PM for introductions; Brief PM on work-plan 2015	9 Mar
	5. Closed Meeting with West Papua team	• Executive and Advisor met with members of the West Papua team	12 Mar





Group/Team	Activity	Summary	Date
YWPG Executive	6. 4th Executive meeting	• Endorsed strategy for West Papua; thematic areas updates; upcoming events	19 Mar
	7. 5th Executive meeting	• Regional Meeting (YWPG assist UNDP); YWPG group meeting/Info Forum	10 Apr
	8. Planning for Regional Meeting on Women	• Executive made aware of planning phase and YWPG's part in arrangements	14 Apr
	9. 6th Executive meeting	• Discussed Film Festival (16 Day Activism) with Kristina Sogavare & Kyera; • Discussed YWPG involvement in organizing Women's Leadership & Political Conference	23 Apr
	10. 7th Brief Executive meeting	• Discuss group meeting (9th Jul) and contents of presentation to members	8 Jul
	11. Courtesy Call to Speaker	• Introduced him to work-plan • Chairlady and Marisa made the courtesy call to Speaker • Confirmed Patron	7 May
	12. YWPG Desk	• <u>Parl</u> HOD Meeting approved a desk for YWPG, Marisa informed Executive	16 Sept
	13. Courtesy meeting with newly appointed Director for Women Division for Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	• Chairlady met with the newly appointed Director	21 Oct



## 16 Days of Activism Closing

Members of YWPG Communications Theme team light up their candles for the candlelight vigil remembering victims of domestic violence during 16 Days of Activism closing at Art Gallery on the eve of December 10, 2015.

From left: Clarinda Mollia, Grace Hilly, Kyera Varnel, Hilda Kosiaia



Deputy PM (former) Hon. Douglas Ete (left), Isabel Provincial MPA Hon. Rhonda Sikilabu, YWPG Chairlady Lysa Wini-Simeon, Karlyn Roughan (Co-author of YWPG Voter Behavior Report), Speaker of Parliament Ajilon Jasper Nasiu and Y@W Programme Manager Sandra Bartlett at YWPG Voter Behavior Report presentation on January 30, 2015 at PTC.



# Ladies Wear Orange!

## 25th *Every Month*

Lets join the campaign to  
**End Violence against Women & Girls**

**Young Women's Parliamentary Group**