



20th September, 2018 **The Gender Training delivered by the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) for the 'Alisi Taumoepeau Wing 45 marks the launch of the Tonga Police Gender Strategy. It is among several key initiatives within the Tonga Police aimed at improving frontline policing.**

Frontline Excellence is one of the Police Commissioner's Priorities for the next two years.

"Gender bias is an identified issue within policing that affects how we do business. It was identified and highlighted during a Leadership Training on Authority, Accountability and Responsibility (AAR) as a performance hindrance," says Superintendent Ashley Fua.

In response, the Tonga Police Gender Advocacy Group together with the Family Free of Violence Program (FFOV) and the Tonga Police Development Program (TPDP) engaged WCCC to deliver a training package aimed at sensitizing police officers on gender and human rights issues specific to our culture and local circumstances.

"The Gender training takes a hard look at how our culture and society defines the role of women and men and the expectations that entail. It then makes a clear link to our behaviour whether in the workplace or private life. It further prompts core questions of fairness, equity and equality of the treatment of women and of the services we provide to the public."

The gender training delivered to the 28 members of Wing 45 from September 10th to September 14th is planned to be delivered across the organization over the next 2 years. It will be integrated into some of the Tonga Police training curriculum to ensure sustainability. We are also looking at a robust Monitoring and Evaluation that would inform and health check the impact of these initiatives on our service delivery.

This work is fully endorsed by the Tonga Police Executives and led by the Police Gender Advocacy Group and the Police College.

**ENDS**

**For further media inquiries please contact:** Tonga Police Media & Communication Officer, Tonga Police Headquarters, Longolongo; – Email: [siaadams@gmail.com](mailto:siaadams@gmail.com) phone (676) 23 323 EXT. 125