

Resolution for Synod

- 1. The Melanesian Board of Mission seeks the endorsement of Synod for the establishment of a taskforce known as the “Committee To Prevent Family Violence” consisting of the General Secretary, the Mission Secretary and all MBM Staff.**

The Committee will be responsible for:

- a. The creation of a Prevention of Family Violence toolkit which for all Church Ministries and Staff to use.
- b. The establishment of The Anglican Church of Melanesia’s Policy Against Family Violence and the Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Family Violence in consultation with the Dioceses and Communities.

- 2. The MBM seeks the endorsement of the COB and General synod to approve the document below as the Churches stand or statement on Violence Issues in the ACOM:**

The Anglican Church of Melanesia strongly condemns violence of any kind, in any form and committed by any person. The Anglican Church of Melanesia will not tolerate violence either inside or outside the Church. In particular, the Anglican Church of Melanesia recognises that Family Violence is a serious problem within the Church, its parishes and communities.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia cites the World Health of Organisation’s definition of violence: “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”

Violence can be further defined as:

Physical Violence

- Hitting
- Pinching
- putting something out of reach of a person with disability
- Forcing someone to be silent
- Punching
- Pushing/shoving
- Slapping
- Stabbing
- Dragging by hair
- Tying up/Restraining
- Threatened with gun/other weapons
- Standing over/invading personal space
- Choking
- Physical intimidation
- Denying medication or over medicating
- Burning

Sexual Violence

- Forced sexual activities
- Waking up to find you are being raped
- Forced to be constantly sexually available no matter how tired, sick or uninterested
- Rape/Forced to have sex with someone
- forced to perform acts which find humiliating
- Forced abortion, pregnancy or sterilisation
- Forced to have sex front of others
- Sexual harassment
- Rape with objects (e.g. stick, bottle)
- Forced to have sex with animals
- Negative comment about clothes worn
- Mutilation of genitals

Economic/Financial Violence

- Controlling all finances and denying access to money
- Spending all money on alcohol leaving family to struggle/destitute
- Forced to sign contracts without being an equal partner or knowing what you are signing
- Obsessive questioning about how money is spent
- Creating debts, disappearing and leaving for other family members to deal with
- Gambling all money leaving the family to struggle or be destitute

Spiritual & Cultural Violence

- Undermining Spiritual beliefs and practices
- Forced to stay silent within Church structures
- Use of religion or cultural rituals (e.g. kastom) to abuse
- Denial of religious practices or networks
- Forced to join new religions, you don't want to join

Emotional Violence

- Yelling abuse
- Criticising beliefs
- Prevent from studying/Destroying books, notes, essays
- Stalking/harassment behaviour
- Name calling
- Put downs
- Undermining parenting skills
- Silent treatment/emotional withdrawal
- Bullying/Teasing
- Threats to kill/to harm/to suicide
- Acting jealous and trying to control every movement
- Use of anger to control
- Criticising abilities

Social Violence

- Prevented from studying or advancing self/skills
- Isolating from contacting family and friends
- putdowns before family and friends
- Imprisoned/stopped from leaving the house
- Public humiliation/shaming someone in front of people
- Making someone ashamed so they don't want to see family/friends