

Violence against women in PNG: how men are getting away with murder

by Ashlee Betteridge
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A new [analysis paper](#) and [blog](#) released today by the Lowy Institute, authored by journalist Jo Chandler, sheds more light on the pervasive issue of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea.

As Chandler writes in her blog:

“The first instinct of a journalist trying to communicate a crisis is to quantify it — to bundle it up in statistics. But the data on violence in PNG is scarce, and it is inevitably scrubbed clean of identity and humanity. The reality, by contrast, is raw, overwhelming, unfathomable, complex.”

The paper shares stories of women who have been affected by violence and shows the struggle that they face in accessing justice and services. It also praises the [Case Management Centre](#) project in Lae that we are [supporting](#), calling it “one of the most promising Australian-backed projects”.

It’s really positive to see journalism and research brought together in this way, to bring out the complexity and the very human side of this issue. We need more data, we need rigorous research, but we also need survivors of this violence to be given a chance to be heard.

The stories in this paper not only paint a richer picture of the issue for researchers, and a more accessible way for wider audiences to gain an understanding of the challenges facing women in PNG, but also provide more fuel for advocacy.

Chandler also appeared on a panel last week on this issue with Ambassador for Women and Girls Natasha Stott-Despoja. A full podcast of the event, chaired by Jenny Hayward-Jones, is [available here](#).

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Link:

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