

**Papua New Guinea Risk: Moderate-High**

Papua New Guinea has been found to have the second highest crime rates in the world by the World Population Review. Underlying social, economic and political issues were noted as influencing factors for violent crime, including in terms of ‘Raskol’ gangs. Organised crime and corruption, as well as drug and human trafficking, were also noted.<sup>1</sup> PNG has exceptionally high rates of gender-based violence. A new research study has found that intimate partner violence is impacted by alcohol use in PNG, with women whose partners consumed alcohol more than 2.8 times more likely to experience physical and emotional violence and more than 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual violence.<sup>2</sup>

Inter-tribal violence also continues to occur in the Highlands. On 10 March 2023, five people were killed in ethnic violence,<sup>3</sup> and a woman was kidnapped. The victims were asleep when they were ambushed; the perpetrators claimed they had been sent by the police and defence force, and forced the victims out by setting fire to the houses.<sup>4</sup> The increasing brutality and lethality of inter-tribal violence remains of great concern, and the roles of the security and justice sectors are also an ongoing issue.

In March 2023, the PNG Defence Force received their first training on reducing gender-based violence, from the US Indo-Pacific Command Office of WPS.<sup>5</sup> 30 members of the PNGDF participated and graduated as ‘Gender Focal Points’. The course included UNSC Resolution 1325 on WPS, gendered impacts of natural disasters, and the importance of including a gender lens in operations. The PNGDF developed a gender-based violence prevention and response framework and learned new skills on improving gender equity. A review of issues surrounding the 2022 election by the Special Parliamentary Committee is focusing on ensuring the accuracy of the electoral roll for the 2027 election, in order that all citizens can vote.<sup>6</sup>

Recommendations

The government of Papua New Guinea should:

- Consider issues and recommendations raised by independent observers and the internal Inquiry on the election.
- Prioritise action on gender-based violence and work towards gender equality across society.
- Increase police presence in violence hotspots and ensure perpetrators of inter-tribal violence are held accountable.
- Continue to work towards institutional change within the security sector to better respond to victims of SGBV and other forms of violence.

UN member states should:

- PNG to reform and improve the election process.
- Provide capacity building training to the security sector.
- Continue to support strategies for achieving gender equality and a reduction in gender-based violence.

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<sup>1</sup> World Population Review, Crime Rate by Country 2023, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>

<sup>2</sup> Cadri A, Aboagye RG, Boadu Frimpong J, et al, Partner alcohol consumption and intimate partner violence among women in Papua New Guinea: a cross-sectional analysis of Demographic and Health Survey, *BMJ Open* 2023;13:e066486. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-066486,

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[https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/13/3/e066486.long?utm\\_source=miragenews&utm\\_medium=miragenews&utm\\_campaign=news](https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/13/3/e066486.long?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news)

<sup>3</sup> Papua New Guinea: Disaster Management Team Humanitarian Update No. 04, <https://reliefweb.int/report/papua-new-guinea/papua-new-guinea-disaster-management-team-humanitarian-update-no-04-updated-30th-march-2023>

<sup>4</sup> Cretilda Alokaka, Five killed, woman taken, The National, 10 March 2023, <https://www.thenational.com.pg/five-killed-woman-taken/>

<sup>5</sup> PNGDF Receives First Gender Training, Loop PNG, 13 April 2023, <https://www.looppng.com/png-news/pngdf-receives-first-gender-training-119213>

<sup>6</sup> Aileen Kwaragu, Robust system eyed for General Election 2027, The National, 24 April 2023, <https://www.thenational.com.pg/robust-system-eyed-for-general-election-2027/>