



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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*For Immediate Release*

## **EU launches Drawing Competition on Gender Equality**

***The Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific today launched the International Drawing Competition on Gender Equality to coincide with the celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March. This competition is open to all children between the ages of 8 and 10 schooling in one of 7 world regions – the Pacific, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Mediterranean and other European countries.***

The purpose of this colourful and inspiring contest is to encourage children to express their views – through a drawing – on gender equality in light of the global issues and challenges that women face throughout the world.

The drawings should revolve around this year's theme, which is *"Once upon a time there were a girl and a boy, together they wanted to make the world a better place..."*

"As the European Union supports women's rights and gender equality worldwide, I would like to encourage the children of the Pacific to submit entries through their schools so that their vision of gender equality gets an international audience and shows how women and men can collaborate to make the world a better place", said Ambassador Wiepke van der Goot, Head of EU Delegation for the Pacific during the official launch of the contest at the Suva City Carnegie Library.

All entries must be with the Suva-based office of the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific by 12:00 noon, May 14, 2010.

A pre-selection will be done by the Delegation in Suva and the 10 best drawings will be forwarded to Brussels, where a jury made up of European children between the ages of 8 and 10 will make the final decision. Fourteen winners will be selected from the 7 regions and they will each receive €1,000 (approx. FJ\$2,700). The winning entries will be published in a booklet for distribution later in the year to schools of the participating countries.

The competition has been carried out every year since 2007 by the European Union with great success. Last year, more than 23,000 children between the ages of 8 and 10 from 60 different countries took part.

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