COMBATING corruption is the focus at parliament this week with a special United Nations workshop being held to address the contentious issue.

The Cook Islands is a party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as well as member of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

Two United Nations staff members are running a two-day workshop, aiming to inform Cook Island Members of Parliament on the requirements and good practices of anti-corruption and UNCAC.

The aim is also to stimulate further consideration of anti-corruption reforms in the Cook Islands and strengthen the GOPAC chapter in the Cook Islands, which was set up in 2014.

The UN’s Office on Drugs and Crime regional anticorruption advisor Amika Wyche and the UN’s Pacific Regional anticorruption project consultant and chair of GOPAC international John Hyde are running the workshop.

Although there is no clear international definition of corruption, it is most known to be the abuse of entrusted power for personal benefit.

And in the case of MPs, corruption can mean either an abuse or neglect of their position.

Hyde said women are incredibly vulnerable to corruption, and a wide range of “accidents” where women are used for sexual favour is emerging as particularly disturbing.

Yesterday Members of Parliament asked many questions about corruption, and how to establish its different forms.

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