

MEDIA RELEASE

Break the Silence, End the Violence. SVSG Empowers Youth at Upolu Saleilua Stake Youth Camp

*17 January 2026
Apia, Samoa*

The Samoa Victim Support Group youth's group was honored to participate as a keynote contributor at the Upolu Saleilua Stake Youth Camp & Awareness Program, held at Sauniatu Camp Site yesterday.

The program brought together over 200 youths aged 12 to 17, youth leaders, and presidency members from 12 youth groups, under the theme "Break the Silence, End the Violence." The initiative aimed to equip young people with knowledge and life skills to navigate personal challenges, strengthen mental wellbeing, and promote safer homes and communities.

SVSG Youth's advocated on shared insights on SVSG's background, its role in supporting victims of violence, mental health awareness, and drug awareness. The session highlighted how silence, trauma, substance use, and untreated mental health challenges can negatively impact individuals, families, and communities, while encouraging young people to speak up, seek help, and support one another.

The program also saw participation from key partner organizations including the Samoa Red Cross, Samoa Police Prison and Corrections Services, reinforcing messages around protection, safety, and available support services.

Commenting on SVSG's ongoing commitment to youth empowerment, SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang said, *"Prevention begins with education and early intervention. When young people are given the knowledge, confidence, and support to speak out, we help break cycles of violence and build safer families and communities for the future."*

SVSG acknowledges and sincerely thanks Stake President Fuimaono Sam Te'o and the Upolu Saleilua Stake Youth & Presidency, for the formal invitation and opportunity to engage with young people in a safe and supportive environment.

SVSG remains committed to working alongside communities, churches, and partners to empower youth, break the silence surrounding violence, and ensure that every child and young person in Samoa knows where to seek help.

END

Ensuring that victims of crime and those in need are well supported to be safe and in control to restore their lives

2016: With and for Girls Award – Star Foundation of London

2017: Innovation & Excellence Team Award – Samoa Public Service

2018: Finalist, International Children's Peace Prize 2018 – Kids Right Foundation of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018: Human Rights Champion in Samoa – UNESCO

2019: Innovation for Sustainable Development Award – Commonwealth Secretary-General

2020: Nominated Person(s) of the Year – Samoa Observer

2021: Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Promotion & Protection – Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI

2023: Healthy Islands Best Proposal Award – World Health Organization

2026 Noble Peace Prize Nomination