

MEDIA RELEASE

SVSG and Anoamaa 2 Constituency Strengthen Partnership to Address Domestic Violence through Culture, Faith, and Community Empowerment

*24th January 2026
Apia, Samoa*

The Samoa Victims Support Group (SVSG), in partnership with the Anoamaa 2 Constituency, will commenced a three-day community engagement workshop from 26-28 January at Solosolo village, aimed at re-establishing traditional Samoan ways of living as a pathway to eliminating domestic violence within communities.

This important initiative is funded by the UN Trust Fund and focuses on strengthening families and communities through shared values grounded in Aganuu ma Agaifanua (Samoan culture and traditions), Christian beliefs, and the responsibilities of being law-abiding citizens.

The three-day engagement brings together village leaders, women, youth, and community members of Anoamaa 2, alongside key national stakeholders including the Samoa Police Service and the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration (MJCA). These agencies will present and discuss their respective roles in supporting SVSG's work to prevent and respond to domestic violence, ensuring communities are well informed about protection mechanisms, legal processes, and available support services.

A key highlight of the programme is a one-day specialised workshop dedicated to Nofotane women, focusing on small business ideas and income-generating activities. This component aims to economically empower women, enabling them to raise income for themselves and their families, while strengthening their independence and resilience within the community.

Reflecting on the importance of the partnership, SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang said:

“Domestic violence can only be eliminated when communities themselves take ownership of the solutions. By strengthening our cultural values, Christian faith, and respect for the law, we are rebuilding safe families and villages. Our partnership with Anoamaa 2 reflects SVSG's belief that sustainable change begins at the community level.”

Anoamaa 2 Constituency is the first of 13 constituencies nationwide to engage in this partnership with SVSG under the UN Trust Fund Project. This marks an important milestone in SVSG's ongoing commitment to working closely with villages and constituencies across Samoa to prevent domestic violence through community-led, culturally grounded, and sustainable approaches.

SVSG acknowledges the leadership of Anoamaa 2 Member of Parliament Afioga Lauofo

Pierre Meredith and his committee on the support for the UN Trust Fund, and the collaboration of national stakeholders for their shared commitment to building safer, stronger, and more respectful communities for all. On Friday the mayor of Solosolo village Seiuli Fua received the amount of \$3750 tala from SVSG Board Chair Afioaga Mapusoa Tanya Toailoa to support preparations for the workshops.

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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