



## SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP TOOMAGA MO E PUAPUAGATIA

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### SVSG Convenes Second Meeting with Village Representatives from Upolu and Savai'i

*16 December 2025*

*Apia, Samoa*

The Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) convened its second joint meeting for Upolu and Savai'i SVSG Village Representatives at the SDA Falesamoa Lalovaea, as part of the ongoing project titled "Social Protection and Intimate Partner Violence in Samoa." The project is funded by Tautua Australia – Samoa Human Development for All (DFAT).

The meeting provided an important platform to review and reaffirm the roles and responsibilities of Village Representatives under the project, recognizing their critical position as the first point of response within their communities. As trusted community members, Village Representatives serve as the "*eyes and ears*" of SVSG, playing a vital role in identifying risks, preventing violence within families, and ensuring timely referrals to support services that save lives.

Discussions focused on strengthening coordination, improving community-level responses to intimate partner violence, and reinforcing social protection mechanisms to better support women, children, and vulnerable families across Samoa. Village Representatives also shared experiences from their respective communities, highlighting challenges and successes in addressing violence at the grassroots level.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang emphasized the importance of the Village Representatives' role, stating:

*"Our Village Representatives are the first line of protection in our communities. They are the eyes and ears of SVSG, and their courage, commitment, and vigilance play a critical role in preventing violence, protecting families, and saving lives. Strengthening their understanding of their roles and responsibilities is essential to building safer homes and stronger communities across Samoa."*

SVSG acknowledged the commitment and dedication of its Village Representatives, emphasizing that their work is essential to achieving safer homes and stronger communities. Through continued collaboration, capacity building, and partnership support, SVSG aims to enhance community-based prevention and response efforts nationwide.

SVSG extends its sincere appreciation to Tautua Australia and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for their support of this important initiative, which strengthens community protection systems and advances the fight to end violence in Samoa.

Together, SVSG and its Village Representatives remain committed to preventing violence, protecting families, and saving lives.

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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*