



MEDIA RELEASE

Child Neglect is a serious problem facing our country.

18 December 2025

Apia, Samoa

Child neglect constitutes a form of child abuse and can inflict significant harm on a child's wellbeing and development. It is clear that this has been a frequent occurrence in villages and communities as well as in public areas. This raises the concern on the crucial role that parents play in protecting and raising their children.

For the second occasion, a helpless and vulnerable young girl was brought to SVSG due to Child Physical Neglect, in which her parents neglected their responsibilities leaving her unattended and exposed to hazards.

According to her rescuers, she showed up out of nowhere unclothed and lost. The little girl was unaware of the happenings around her and her whereabouts as well as directing them to her family and parents.

President Siliniu Lina Chang, says she wasn't expecting the little girl to reappear after the initial incident, but she assures her that she will be in good hands and well-cared for while she waits for the police investigation. She expresses her sincere concern for the victim because this isn't the first time she's encountered her in such a situation.

"It breaks my heart to see this little girl again but if she's back to us then I think it's clear that she needs our help more than before and we will do our best in providing her shelter as well as the support she needs," she said.

"This isn't the first time that Child Neglect is seen happening in our small country but anything could happen and we cannot prevent it but it is my only prayer and request to all parents and families to make sure our children who are the future of Samoa are looked after and well nurtured.

The SVSG persistently advocates for mental health and drug awareness, recognizing them as significant contributors to family conflicts and disputes, which consequently result in many challenges, including neglect of children.

SVSG represents the welfare of children, and again fulfilling its mission through providing sanctuary for the poor child at the Campus of Hope while the police conduct their investigation.

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