

MEDIA RELEASE

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Partnership visit to SVSG

28 November 2025

Apia, Samoa

Today, SVSG welcomed Canadian officials from the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) to review their joint project focused on mental health and drug abuse in Samoan communities and schools. This two-year initiative, funded by CFLI and run by SVSG from 2025 to 2026, aims to raise awareness and deliver interventions addressing these social challenges.

The visit allowed both partners to assess interim results, discuss lessons learned, and consider challenges faced. With 80% of project activities completed, discussions centered on the project's impact among Nofotane women and secondary school communities across Upolu and Savaii. These efforts target reducing stigma and providing essential support around mental health and drug abuse, which are contributing factors to violence.

A key part of the visit was observing a session at Vaimauga College, where Canadian representatives saw senior students actively participating in project activities. SVSG, together with the Ministry of Police and Prisons and the GOSHEN Samoa Trust, facilitated the program, while CFLI officials observed engagement and outcomes.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang expressed gratitude to the Canadian government and CFLI for their ongoing support. She highlighted the importance of mental health and drug abuse prevention as priorities for SVSG, given their connection to rising violence. President Chang also acknowledged the vital collaboration with the Police and GOSHEN Samoa Trust in delivering the project successfully.

This partnership, strengthened by CFLI's ongoing support, is key to addressing the root causes of violence and improving community wellbeing in Samoa. The visit coincided with the 16 Days of Activism campaign, reinforcing the project's significance as Samoa works to eliminate violence and promote safer communities.

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

