

PRESS RELEASE

SVSG Launches Spiritual Component for 16 Days of Activism and Celebrates International Human Rights Day: **SVSG 9 Days of Novena for Prayer and Reflection**

*02 December 2025
Apia, Samoa*

Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) is committed to launching its spiritual initiative during the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign. Beginning today, **the 2nd of December until the 10th of December 2025**, SVSG will commit nine days of Novena (*a Catholic and Christian devotional prayer repeated over nine days*) as a core activity in its movement against violence.

The SVSG's nine days of Novena against violence will also commemorate International Human Rights Day on 10th December 2025, a spiritual devotion dedicated to upholding the rights of those deprived by crime in Samoa. SVSG serves as a core provider of human rights services in Samoa, protecting and advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable against violence.

For nine consecutive days, SVSG and its partners will dedicate themselves to prayer and fasting, focusing on three main intentions:

1. Praying for the healing and safety of the children at the SVSG Campus, as well as for safer communities throughout Samoa.
2. Uniting for a peaceful festive season and a joyful welcoming of baby Jesus in every family.
3. Seeking God's mercy on all the work carried out by SVSG and its partners in the fight against violence in Samoa and the world.

The SVSG Novena service, led by Father Maselino Lafaele, will commence today from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. SVSG Aiga, along with valued partners, will unite in this act of faith and commitment as part of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang stated, "As we enter the 16 Days of Activism, our faith remains at the heart of all we do. Through nine days of prayer and fasting, we seek strength, healing, and peace for our children, our families, and our nation. This Novena is our spiritual commitment to ending violence in Samoa."

The nine days of Novena stand as a testament to SVSG's dedication to holistic healing, addressing not only the physical and emotional, but also the spiritual well-being of the community.

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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