

In a powerful affirmation of SVSG's impact and reach, Queen Camilla has accepted the role of Patron of the Samoa Victim Support Group. This is more than a ceremonial title it is a profound moment of global recognition. Queen Camilla's patronage signals to the world that Samoa's efforts to protect survivors of violence are not only courageous but worthy of royal and international support. Her alignment with SVSG shines a spotlight on the work happening here in our islands work that often happens quietly, in the shadows, in the hardest places.

But who is behind it all, I would like to pay tribute....



### A Tribute to Siliniu Lina Chang

Founder and President, Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG)

#### How Our Paths Crossed

My journey with Siliniu Lina Chang did not begin by accident. It began through someone who understood the depth of her calling, my good friend who becomes family Tafaoimalo Misa Leilani Tuala-Warren, former Justice of the Supreme Court of Samoa and now the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Lani and Lina (they simply known to me as Lani and Lina tulou o oulua suaafa) share a rare kind of friendship, the kind built on shared purpose, sacrifice, and a love for justice. Together, they worked tirelessly to establish Samoa's Family Court, a structure designed with compassion at its core so families and victims could be heard with dignity. Their partnership was a blend of legal brilliance and deep humanity, and in that partnership, they became more than colleagues: they became sisters in service.

It was through this bond that Lani introduced me to Lina.

Not with formality.

Not with ceremony.

But with the quiet confidence of someone who knows two hearts are about to align in purpose.

Lani said simply, "Come and support SVSG. Lina needs people who care."

I didn't know then how life-changing that invitation would be.

I began volunteering as a Science, Computing and Maths teacher for the children at the Campus of Hope. I do my classes after work. The first time I stepped into that space, I saw children whose spirits had endured storms no child should ever face. Yet their eyes still carried hope. Their laughter, when it came was a gift. It was in those classrooms, among those children, that I witnessed the depth of Lina's work.

And then I saw her.

Not just the public leader.

Not just the founder.

But a woman who moves with gentleness and strength, a mother to many, a guardian to the vulnerable.

A woman who gives without hesitation.

From that moment, something awakened in me. My heart began to follow her mission.

My spirit recognised hers.

That was the beginning of a profound connection, one built on admiration, shared purpose, and the quiet bond that forms when you witness someone living their calling with truth.

The rest, truly, is history.

A Woman Who Holds Others Together — Even in My Own Darkest Hour

My bond with Lina deepened in a way I never expected—through the most heartbreaking season of my life: the sudden passing of my husband.

Loss like that changes a person. It shakes the foundation of your home, your identity, your future. My children and I were unprepared. We were grieving in confusion, in silence, in shock.

And in that moment, Lina did what she always does:

She stepped in.

With compassion.

With steadiness.

With love that expects nothing in return.

Through SVSG, she ensured that my children received specialised counselling—not just as a service, but as an embrace. The counsellors helped them navigate their grief, express emotions they didn't understand, and find strength in each other.

But more than that, the support brought us closer together.

It allowed us to grieve as a family, not separately.

It helped us rediscover our bond in the midst of pain.

It turned our heartbreak into a deeper connection, and for this, I will forever be grateful.

In a moment when my own world felt broken, Lina offered what she always offers:

A safe place.

A steady hand.

A heart that holds others together.

This is who she is, on and off the frontlines of victim support.

A Vision Born From Love

Lina's leadership is not about recognition, position, or power.  
It is about love—a fierce, unshakeable love for the vulnerable.

SVSG began as a handful of volunteers, but under her care it has become:

- A national lifeline for survivors
- A 24/7 safe haven
- A Campus of Hope that gives children more than shelter—it gives them back their childhood
- A bridge between victims and justice
- A movement of compassion that has reached every corner of Samoa
- A respected partner to regional and international organisations

Her love is visible in every program, every decision, every late-night call she answers without hesitation. She looks at every survivor not with pity, but with belief—belief that healing is possible, that dignity can be restored, that life can begin again.

### Leadership Rooted in Courage

The work Lina does is not easy.  
It is not glamorous.  
It is not comfortable.

It requires confronting pain daily.  
It requires sitting with trauma.  
It requires fighting systems, confronting attitudes, and challenging silence.

Yet she leads with a courage that is both soft and unbreakable.

She carries stories nobody sees.  
She absorbs hurt that is not her own.  
She shields children from nightmares and stands beside women whose voices trembled before they found strength.

Her leadership is defined not by authority, but by presence, the kind of presence that whispers “You are safe now. You are not alone.”

### A Woman Who Inspires Women

If there is anything Lina embodies, it is the sacred role of women as healers, protectors, and builders of community. She shows us what a mother's heart can do when it is extended beyond her own household.

She models:

- Compassion without competition
- Sisterhood without jealousy
- Strength without hardness
- Leadership with love as its foundation

She reflects what we wish for all women and all mothers, to support, uplift, and nurture one another. In a world where women often find themselves pitted against each other, Lina chooses unity, healing, and shared purpose.

#### A Legacy That Will Endure

The legacy of Siliniu Lina Chang cannot be measured in awards or titles.

It is measured in:

- The child who sleeps peacefully for the first time in years
- The woman who walks into court no longer afraid
- The family that rebuilds after tragedy
- The community that learns to care instead of criticise
- The generation that grows up understanding dignity and hope

Her legacy lives in the lives she restores, the systems she strengthens, and the compassion she plants across Samoa.

Because of Lina, we see what it means to serve with heart.

Because of Lina, we understand that protection is a calling.

Because of Lina, we believe that even in darkness, love can lead the way.

#### With Deep Respect

Lina,

thank you for being the steady heartbeat of hope in Samoa.

Thank you for your love, your courage, and your lifelong service.

Thank you for touching my family during our most vulnerable moment.

Thank you for inspiring me, and so many others, to walk toward compassion instead of away from it.

Your legacy is woven into the fabric of our nation. Your impact is immeasurable. Your light continues to guide us all.