

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Drug Awareness Training Empowers SVSG Youth for Upcoming School Programs**

**29 September 2025**

**Apia:**

The Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) Youth were privileged to take part in a Drug Awareness Training facilitated by Superintendent Col Aumua, Head of the Community Division of the Samoa Police Force.

The training aimed to equip young leaders with the knowledge and understanding of the dangers associated with drugs, particularly in light of the increasing crimes linked to substance abuse in Samoa. Superintendent Aumua emphasized that while drugs threaten the health, wellbeing, and future of young people, there are countless positive opportunities available for youth to pursue meaningful, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Through this training, the SVSG Youth gained essential preventative measures and practical tools to raise awareness among their peers. It also serves as vital preparation as the youth prepare to roll out their Mental Health and Drug Awareness Program across high schools in Upolu, following the program's successful completion in Savai'i.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang expressed her gratitude to the Samoa Police Force for their continued partnership in protecting and guiding the nation's young people:

*"Our youth are the future of Samoa. We have to save them from the risks of drugs and focus on their wellbeing and capacity building to equip them with the right knowledge and values today, we are safeguarding tomorrow."*

**END**

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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**