

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **President Siliniu Lina Chang Delivers Powerful Speech at SVSG's 20th Anniversary Ball**

**Apia, Samoa – 25 June 2025** --- A heartfelt and powerful speech delivered by the President of Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), Siliniu Lina Chang, marked the highlight of SVSG's 20th Anniversary Ball held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025 at the Apia Park Football Complex.

*"Talofa lava and good evening everyone,*

*Tonight, as I stand before you, I am overwhelmed with emotion and deep gratitude. It is a rare and humbling privilege to be part of a milestone like this — twenty years of SVSG serving our beloved Samoa.*

*Twenty years ago, a small group of people came together with one powerful idea — to be a refuge for the vulnerable, a voice for the voiceless, and a shield for those without one. What began as a spark of compassion has grown into a movement of courage, advocacy, and healing.*

*SVSG was born not out of resources, but out of heart — and today, we look around and see the incredible impact of that heart.*

*To every single one of you who has chosen to be present tonight — whether you have been part of this journey from the beginning or have only just joined us — thank you. Thank you for believing in this vision. Thank you for walking with us.*

*To our loyal supporters who have stood by us through every challenge and triumph, your unwavering faith has carried us through storms. To our new partners, your presence reminds us that the work continues, that the mission still matters, and that the community is growing. You are part of something greater than any one person — you are part of a legacy of love and protection.*

*I want to especially honour those who have been with us through the darkest hours — who stood beside us when the world seemed silent, who never gave up, even when the fight felt too heavy. You are the quiet heroes of this journey, and your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.*

*This celebration is not about one organization. It's about the lives that have been restored. It's about the children who now sleep in safety, The women who have found their strength again, And the communities who are beginning to believe that change is possible.*

*SVSG has never been perfect. But it has always been faithful. Faithful to the broken, to the abandoned, to the unheard. And tonight, we renew that commitment with gratitude in our hearts and courage in our steps.*

*As I look to the future, I pray that in another ten years, others will stand here in my place — still wrapped in the warmth of your support, still surrounded by people who care deeply about justice and dignity. Because SVSG has never been about one person. It's about all of us. The community. The collective heart of Samoa.*

*So from the depths of my soul — fa'afetai. Thank you, thank you, thank you. For your hands, For your prayers, For your resources, And for your love.*

*May we continue to serve with humility, Lead with compassion, And build a Samoa where everyone feels safe, valued, and seen. God bless you all, and God bless SVSG”*

The SVSG 20th Anniversary Ball was attended by government dignitaries, community leaders, international partners, and supporters from all walks of life, celebrating a legacy of service and looking ahead to the next chapter.

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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*