

MEDIA RELEASE

SVSG Community Law Centre Welcomes First Legal Hire Under UN Trust Fund Project

Apia, Samoa – 01st October 2025 --The Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) is proud to announce the first appointment under its newly established Community Law Centre, a project funded by the UN Trust Fund.

The Centre's inaugural hire is Ms. Ruta Masinalupe, a young Samoan lawyer who has joined SVSG with a passion to serve vulnerable members of the community. Her commitment is to ensure that those who constantly seek the support of SVSG also gain fair and equal access to justice.

Through this UN Trust Fund project, the Community Law Centre aims to strengthen legal support for survivors of violence, marginalized families, and communities who often face barriers to the justice system. Ms. Masinalupe's appointment is a milestone for SVSG, signalling the start of a long-term vision to expand access to legal assistance for those most in need.

"We are delighted to welcome Ruta to the SVSG family," said Board Member Ms. Tanya Toailoa. "Her dedication and enthusiasm align with SVSG's mission to be a voice for the vulnerable. The establishment of the Community Law Centre is a crucial step forward in addressing legal inequalities and ensuring protection of human rights in Samoa."

Ms. Masinalupe expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to begin her legal career with SVSG: "I believe in the power of the law to change lives. Through this role, I hope to stand alongside our vulnerable communities and ensure their voices are heard."

SVSG extends its appreciation to the UN Trust Fund for supporting the establishment of the Community Law Centre, which will serve as a safe and accessible avenue for justice for those who need it most.

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

