



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION
“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM)”
OCTOBER 2022**

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence continues to be viewed as a private family matter, a ‘woman’s issue’, and abuse is often done in the shadows in American Samoa. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM) CALLS ON THE COMMUNITY TO TAKE ACTION!

WHEREAS, Our Community must begin to understand the pressing concerns of our time, including racial injustice, gender injustice, poverty, and economic inequality, houselessness, and public problems. These societal matters intertwine with domestic violence and creates violence and harms those who experience it, particularly children; and

WHEREAS, Although domestic violence can affect anyone, the impact is not uniform. Survivors from marginalized groups, including individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and elders experience disproportionate rates of domestic violence. These disproportionate impacts are often a direct result of systemic barriers, inequities and inherent racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, ageism, and other oppressions in our service systems; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization reports globally about 1 in 3 (30%) of women have been subjected to physical violence by their partners. Samoan women experience violence by a non-partner at the age of 15. Sixty-two (62%) of Samoan women have experienced physical violence by a non-partner. Twenty-three (23%) of pregnant Samoan women were beaten during pregnancy. Fifty (50%) of Samoan women reported that their children had witnessed at least one incidence of violence. The impact on children in the South Pacific who have witnessed their mother’s abuse resulted in 51% of children showing aggressive behavior, forty-nine (49%) experiencing nightmares, nineteen (19%) percent repeating a school year, and eleven (11%) percent dropping out of school ; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has created new challenges in our system’s response to domestic violence. An overall increase in frequency and severity of domestic violence in the wake of the pandemic have pushed our system to increase collaboration, and come up with innovative solutions to help survivors maintain access to critical services; and

WHEREAS, During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we gather as a community to reaffirm our commitment to ending domestic violence and supporting survivors. We honor and recognize the strength, the courage, the tremendous dedication of

advocates and service providers. We praise the courage and resilience of survivors. We recommit ourselves to standing with them for safety, dignity, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Important partnerships have been formed among criminal and justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim services such as the;

American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic & Sexual Violence,
American Samoa Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition,
American Samoa Community College,
American Samoa Department of Education,
American Samoa Department of Health,
American Samoa Department of Public Safety,
American Samoa Office of the Governor,
American Samoa Legal Aid,
American Samoa Office of Criminal Justice Planning Agency,
Back on Track,
Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago
Congress Woman Uifaatali Aumua Amata's Office,
American Samoa Department of Human & Social Services,
American Samoa Department of Youth & Women's Affairs,
Empowering Pacific Island Communities (EPIC),
IMPACT & Queers Tiers,
Intersections Inc.,
LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Family Planning Program
Mana Community Support Services,
American Samoa Office of Protection & Advocacy for the Disabled,
American Samoa Department of Legal Affairs,
Pae ma le Auli,
Society Of Faafafines In American Samoa (SOFIAS),
American Samoa Territorial Administration on Aging,
American Samoa Veterans Affairs Office; and

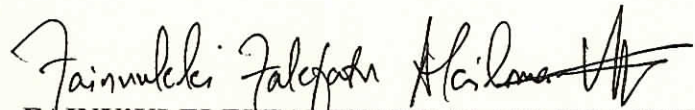
WHEREAS, We applaud our partners who work tirelessly to help victims of domestic violence and their families; Our partners help to lead the charge to increase public awareness regarding domestic violence, its prevalence, and ways to eliminate it through prevention and education; and

WHEREAS, Our fa'aSamoa THRIVES thru cultural frameworks addressing family violence; it is IMPERATIVE we stay committed to supporting our 'talanoa' tables, safe and brave spaces for our people to EMBRACE healing; We must VALUE building better relationships; We must LEAVE behind the mindset, "Violence is part of our Samoan Culture"— We MUST NEVER forget the fa'aSamoa centers on family, and restores communities!

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FAINU'ULELEI FALEFATU ALA'ILIMA-UTU, Acting Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as 'Domestic Violence Awareness Month' and endorse the commitment to ending Domestic Violence in the community. I call on all of American Samoa to speak out against domestic violence and support efforts

to educate young people about healthy relationships centered on respect; support victims and survivors in your own families and networks; and to support the efforts of victim advocates, service providers, health care providers, and the legal system, as well as the leadership of survivors, in working to end domestic violence in our communities. We recognize the important roles of the public and private sectors, non-profit organizations, communities, and individuals in helping to prevent and address domestic violence and create a culture that refuses to tolerate abuse.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of my office on this 29th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.



FAINU'ULELEI FALEFATU ALA'ILIMA-UTU

Acting Governor



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**POLOA'IGA FA' ALA'UA'ITELE
"MASINA O LE NOFO UTA I SAUAGA FAALOTOIFALE"
OKETOPA 2022**

- TALUAI,** O loo faaauau pea le manatu o sauaga faalotoifale o se mataupu e patino ma faalilo i aiga, o se mataupu tau tama'ita'i, ma o loo faia pea le faileagaina i le paolo o ataata i Amerika Samoa. E TALO ATU LE MASINA O LE NOFO UTA I SAUAGA FAALOTOIFALE I LE MAMALU LAUTELE TATOU TE TULA'I E FAI SE GALUEGA!
- TALUAI,** Ua tatau ona amata ona tatou malamalama i popolega ogaoga o aso nei, e aofia ai le faailoga lanu, faailoga itupa, le mativa, le lē tutusa i tamaoaiga, leai o ni falenofo, ma isi faafitauli lautele. O nei mataupu tau fealoa'iga ua fili faatasi ma sauaga faalotoifale, ua faatupula'ia ai sauaga ma afāina ai ē ua oo i ai ia tulaga, aemaise tamaiti; ma
- TALUAI,** E ono aafia soo se tasi i sauaga faalotoifale. ae lē tutusa aafiaga. O i latou e aafia ma onosa'ia sauaga ae itiiti auaunaga o loo latou maua, e pei o ē iai mana'oga faapitoa, le vasega o faafafine ma faafatama, tagata mai fafo, ma tagata matutua, e lē laugatasia uma i se fua faatatau o sauaga faalotoifale. O nei aafiaga e eseese le mamafa e mafua mai i le faatuā'oi o le soifuaga masani, faa'eseese o tagata ma le faailogalanu, faailoga itupa, ino'ino i faafafine ma faafatama, vaai maulalo i faaletonu, tausaga o le soifua, ma isi vaaiga faatauvaai i a tatou auaunaga; ma
- TALUAI,** Ua faailoa mai e le Faalapotopotoga o le Soifua Maloloina o le Lalolagi, le WHO, e tusa ma le 1 mai le 3, o le 30% lea o tama'ita'i i le lalolagi atoa e sauaina i le tino e a latou paaga. O tama'ita'i Samoa e amata ona sauaina e nisi e le o ni paaga i le 15 tausaga le matutua. E onosefululua pasene (62%) o tama'ita'i Samoa ua sauaina i le tino e se tasi e lē o se paaga. E luasefulutolu pasene (23%) o tama'ita'i Samoa ma'itaga na faoolima i ai se isi a'o ma'itaga. E limasefulu pasene (50%) o tama'ita'i Samoa ua molimauina le vaai e a latou fanau se vevesi tau sauaga e tasi pe sili a'e. O le taunuuga o ia vevesiga i tamaiti o le Pasefika i Saute na vaai i le faileagaina o o latou tina, e limasefulutasi pasene (51%) o ia tamaiti ua aliali mai ai uiga faamisa, e fasefuluiva (49%) e moe te'ite'i i mitivale, sefuluiva pasene (19%) e lua tausaga a'oga o nofo i se vasega e tasi, ma le sefulutasi pasene (11%) o tamaiti e lē i'u a'oga; ma
- TALUAI,** Ua iai lu'itau fou i la tatou tali atu i sauaga faalotoifale ona o le KOVITI-19. Ua faateleina le faitau aofa'i ma le ogaoga o sauaga faalotoifale i le mapu'e a'e o le faama'i oti, ma ua una'ia ai tatou ia toe siisii a'e le galulue faatasi ma ia fausia ni tali fou e fesoasoani ia i latou o loo aafia ma onosa'ia ina ia maua pea auaunaga e lē tuumāmāina; ma

TALUAI, I le Masina o le Nofu Uta i Sauaga Faalotoifale, tatou te potopoto faaitulagi e toe faamautu le tuutōina pe faamuta sauaga faalotoifale ma fesoasoani i e ua aafia. Tatou te faaeaea ai i le malosi, loto tele, ma le maualuga o le tuutōina o e tula'i ma fai auaunaga mo e sauaina. Tatou te 'ailaoina le lototetele ma le lē oiagofie o i latou ua aafia. E ofoina atu i tatou ia tutū faatasi ma i latou ia saogalemu, faaaloologia, ma ia faia le amiotonu; ma

TALUAI, Ua faavaeina faiga faapaaga i le va o lālā o soligatulafono ma faamasinoga, faitausiga o le soifua maloloina, galulue faatasi faaporofesa, ma auaunaga mo e sauaina e pei o le;

Mau a Amerika Samoa e Tete Atu i Sauaga Faalotoifale ma Faigāusuga,
Tūtūla'i Faatasi o Amerika Samoa i le Kanesa
Kolisi Tuufaatasi o Amerika Samoa,
Matagaluega o A'oga i Amerika Samoa,
Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina i Amerika Samoa,
Matagaluega o le Puipuiga o le Saogalemu Lautele i Amerika Samoa,
Ofisa o le Kovana i Amerika Samoa,
Ofisa Fesoasoani Faaletulafono i Amerika Samoa,
Ofisa Fuafuaga Tau Faamasinoga Soligatulafono i Amerika Samoa
Back on Track,
Auaunaga i Fealoa'iga Katoliko, Puleaga Samoa Pago Pago
Ofisa o le Tama'ita'i Faipule o le Konekeresi Uifaatali Aumua Amata,
Matagaluega Tautua mo Tagata & Fealoa'iga,
Matagaluega o Talavou & Tama'ita'i
Empowering Pacific Island Communities (EPIC),
IMPACT & Queers Tiers,
Intersections Inc.,
Porokalama o Aiga Fuafuaina, Falema'i LBJ
Mana Community Support Services,
Ofisa o le Puipuiga & Tula'i mo Mana'oga Tumau
Ofisa o le Loia Sili
Pae ma le Auli,
Sosaiete o Faafafine i Amerika Samoa (SOFIAS),
Ofisa o Tagata Matutua i le Teritori,
Ofisa o Fitafita Tuai i Amerika Samoa; ma

TALUAI, Tatou te patipatia a tatou paaga o loo galulue malosi e fesoasoani i e ua afāina i sauaga faalotoifale ma o latou aiga; e fesoasoani a tatou paaga e ta'ita'i i taumafaiga ia faaopoopo le iloa e uiga i sauaga faalotoifale, le aafiaga lautele, ma ni auala e faagata ai e ala i le puipui aua ne'i tupu mai ma ni a'oa'oga tatau; ma

TALUAI, O lo tatou soifuaga faaSamoa e LAU OLAOLA i totonu o aganuu e faafae ai vevesiga i aiga; e FAAMAMAFAINA ia mautu lo tatou sapaapaia o tatou li'o o 'talanoaga,' o avanoa saogalemu e lototetele ai o tatou tagata e OPOGI le faamalologa; e tatau ona FAATĀUA le fausia o mafutaga lelei; e tatau ona TUU'ESE le manatu masani, "O sauaga o se vaega o le Aganuu a Samoa" – E LE TATAU LAVA ona faagaloina leni, o le aiga o le fatu o le soifuaga o Samoa, ma toe teuteuina ai li'o faanu'u!

ONA O LEA, O A'U, FAINU'ULELEI FALEFATU ALA'ILIMA-UTU, o le Sui Kovana o le Teritori o Amerika Samoa, e tusa ai ma le pule ua tuuina mai ia te a'u ua ou poloaiina ai le masina o Oketopa 2022, o le Masina o le Nofo Uta i Sauaga Faalotoifale ma faaaloa'ia le tuutōina e faamuta Sauaga Faalotoifale i le teritori. Ou te valaau atu i le mamalu o Amerika Samoa atoa, saunoa atu e tetee i sauaga faalotoifale, ma lagolago taumafaiga e a'oa'o tupulaga talavou e uiga i mafutaga maloloina e autū i le faaaloalo; lagolago i e ua afaina ma e sa onosa'ia i totonu o tatou lava aiga ma li'o; ma sapaapaia taumafaiga a i latou o loo tula'i mo e afaina, fai auaunaga, fai tausiga o le soifua maloloina, ma auaunaga tau tulafono, faatasi ma le ta'ita'iga a e sa onosa'ia, i le galulue e faamuta sauaga faalotoifale i o tatou li'o faanu'u. Tatou te amana'ia le tāua o matafaioi a le lautele ma vaega tuma'oti, faalapotopotoga lē faapisinisi, alaafaga faanu'u, ma tagata ta'itoatasi o loo fesoasoani e puipui ne'i tupu ma gafa ma sauaga faalotoifale, ma fausia tu ma aga masani e lē onosa'ia le faileagaina.

UA FAAMAONIA LENEI POLOA'IGA, e ala i lo'u sainiaina, faatasi ai ma le faamaufa'ailoga a lo'u ofisa ua faia i le aso 30 lenei o Setema, i le tausaga o le Mesia e lua afe ma le lua-sefulu ma le lua.


FAINU'ULELEI FALEFATU ALA'ILIMA-UTU
Sui Kovana