



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

PROCLAMATION

**“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM)
OCTOBER 2023”**

“EVERY1 KNOWS SOME1”

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. It can happen to anyone at any point in a relationship. Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, cause fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish, or force them to behave in ways they do not want; and

WHEREAS, Over 51% of Samoa women 15-49 years old reported experiencing physical violence from their husbands or someone else since the age of 15, 1 in 3 married women of the same age group reported experiencing physical, sexual & emotional violence by an intimate partner, 2 in 5 women aged between 15-49 years has experienced physical violence committed by non-partners since the age of 15, and 16% of them experienced it in the last 12 months, while 1 in 5 women aged between 15-49 years old reported experiencing any sexual violence committed by any perpetrator in their lifetime, 1 in 10 experienced it in the last 12 months, women ages of 20-24 are more likely to experience emotional, physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, of the pregnant Samoa women between ages 15-49, 4.6% reported experiencing physical violence during pregnancy. Of all the women who had experienced physical, emotional and or sexual violence, only 40% of those had reported the matter; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuous need to provide education, awareness and understanding of domestic violence and its causes; Recognizing the need to understand the complexity of violence as perpetuated within communities and against communities, and the fear of many survivors to report to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, we can all help build and maintain a cultural framework that addresses family violence, where abuse is not tolerated and where survivors are heard, supported, and protected. We must remain committed to building a better American Samoa where all can feel safe, respected, live free from abuse and embrace healing. We must let go of the mindset that “Violence is part of our Samoan Culture” and never forget the faaSamoa is founded on love and respect, centers on family, and restores communities; and

WHEREAS, Everyone knows Someone campaign strives to highlight how common domestic violence is and that it is more than physical violence. It means that everyone knows someone who has been affected by domestic violence, whether you can see it or not. One isn't just a number, it's SOMEONE – a family member, a neighbor, a coworker, a friend. Domestic violence affects all of us, and all of us must be part of the solution. Getting involved in DVAM is a great way to stand up for survivors, while raising awareness and starting a conversation about preventing domestic violence in American Samoa.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALAUEGA E. V. ALE, Acting Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim October 2023, as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” and endorse the commitment to ending Domestic Violence in the community. I call on all citizens of American Samoa to speak out and stand up against domestic violence. I call on American Samoa to support efforts to educate young people about healthy relationships centered on respect. I call on American Samoa to support victims and survivors in your own families and networks. I call on American Samoa to support efforts of all service providers working to support victims of violence. I call on American Samoa to end domestic violence and return our nation to ways of our faasamoa of respect, honor, love and compassion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 27th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three.



TALAUEGA E. V. ALE
Acting Governor



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

POLOAIGA FA'ALAU'AITELE

**“MASINA MO LE FAALAUILOAINA MA LE PUIPUIA MAI I SAUAGA
FAALOTOIFALE OKETOPA 2023”**

“E ILOA E TAGATA TA'I I SE 1”

TALUAI, o sauaga faalotoifale o ni amioga e faaogaina e le tasi o paaga e faamautu ai lona malosiaga ma lona pulea o le isi paaga i se mafutaga vavalalata. E mafai ona tupu i so'o se tasi i so'o se taimi o se mafutaga. O sauaga faalotoifale e aofia ai amioga e afaina ai i tulaga faale-tino, tupu ai le fefe; taofia se paaga mai le faia o mea latou te mananao i ai, po'o le faamalosia oi latou e faia amioga e le'o mananao ai; ma

TALUAI, e silia ma le 51% o tamaitai Samoa e 15-49 o latou tausaga, na ripotia le aafia i sauaga faale-tino mai o latou ta'itoalua po'o se isi tagata talu mai le 15 o latou tausaga, 1 i le 3 tamaitai ua faaipoipo, e tutusa tausaga, na ripotia le aafia i sauaga faale-tino, sauaga tau feusuaiga ma sauaga faale-lagona ma faia i se paaga, 2 i le 5 tamaitai mai lea lava vaega o tausaga ua aafia i sauaga faale-tino na faia e se tagata e leo se paaga, talu mai le 15 o latou tausaga, ma 16% o latou ua aafia i le 13 masina talu ai, ae 1 i le 5 tamaitai mai lea lava vaega o tausaga o le 15-49 na ripotia le aafia i sauaga tau feusuaiga na faia e se tasi i le latou olaga, 1 i le 10 ua aafia i le 13 masina talu ai, o tamaitai mai le 20-24 tausaga e ono aafia i sauaga faale-lagona, faale-tino, po'o sauaga tau feusuaiga e faia e se paaga, ae o tamaitai Samoa ma'i taga mai le tausaga 15-49, 4.6% na ripotia le aafia i sauaga faale-tino ao ma'i taga. Mai tamaitai uma ua aafia i sauaga faale-tino, faale-lagona ma po'o sauaga tau feusuaiga, na'o le 40% oi latou ia na ripotia o latou mataupu; ma

TALUAI, o lo'o iai le manaoga e faaauau le faia o aoaoga, o le silafia ma le malamalama i sauaga faalotoifale ma ona mafuaaga; Iloaina le manaomia ona malamalama i le faigata o sauaga, e pei ona sauaina i totonu o nuu ma afioaga ma faasaga tau i nuu ma afioaga, ma le, ma le fefefe o le tele o i latou ua sauaina e ripotia i le tulafono; ma

TALUAI, e mafai ona tatou fesoasoani uma i le fausia ma faatumauina o se auivi faale-aganuu e gafa taulimaina ai sauaga i totonu o aiga, i le mea e le talia ai sauaga ae lagonaina ai leo oi latou ua aafia i sauaga, lagolagoina ma puipua i latou. E tatau ona tatou tumau ma tamau i le fausiaina o se Amerika Samoa e sili atu ma lagona uma ai le

saogalemu, faaaloologia, ola saoloto mai sauaga ma talia faamalologa. E tatau ona tatou lafoai le manatu e faapea 'o sauaga o se vaega o le tatou aganuu Samoa' ma ia aua nei galo o le faaSamoa e faavae i le alofa ma le faaaloalo, e totonugalemu i aiga, ma toe faaleleia nuu ma afioag; ma

TALUAI, 'e iloa e tagata ta'il se 1' o se taumafaiga e faailoa mai ai le taatele o sauaga faalotoifale ma e le faapea nao sauaga faale-tino, ae tele atu. O lona uiga e iloa uma lava e tagata uma se tasi ua aafia i sauaga faalotoifale, pe e te vaaia pe leai. O le 1, e le na'o se fuainumera, ae o SE TASI – se sui o se aiga, se tuaoi, se tasi lua te galulue faatasi, se uo. E aafia uma tatou i sauaga faalotoifale, ma e tatau ona avea i tatou uma ma se vaega o le vaifofo. O lou aafia i le masina mo le faalauiloina ma le puipuia mai i sauaga faalotoifale, o se auala lelei lea e lagolagoina ai i latou ua aafia i sauaga, ao faatupulaia le malamalama ma le silafia ma amata ai le faatalanoaina o le tetee atu ma le faatamaia o sauaga faalotoifale i totonu o Amerika Samoa.

O LEA, O A'U, TALAUEGA E. V. ALE, o le Kovana Tofia o le Teritori o Amerika Samoa, e poloa'iina ai le Masina o Oketopa 2023, o le masina e faalauiloa ma puipuia mai i sauaga faalotoifale, ma lagolagoina taumafaiga e faamutaina ai sauaga faalotoifale i le teritori. Ou te valaau atu i tagatanuu uma o Amerika Samoa ina ia saunoa ma tula'i e tetee atu i sauaga faalotoifale. Ou te valaau atu ia Amerika Samoa e lagolagoina uma taumafaiga e aoaoina ai tupulaga talavou e faatatau i mafutaga maloloina e faavae i le faaaloalo. Ou te valaau atu ia Amerika Samoa e lagolago i latou ua aafia i sauaga o lo'o i totonu lava o tatou aiga ma fesootaiga. Ou te valaau atu ia Amerika Samoa e lagolagoina taumafaiga uma a i latou o lo'o tautuaina ma avatu auaunaga eseese mo i latou ua aafia i sauaga. Ou te valaau atu ia Amerika Samoa e faamuta sauaga faalotoifale ma toe faafoi le tatou atunuu i ala o le tatou faaSamoa o le faaaloalo, mamalu, alofa ma le agalelei.

UA FA'AMAONIA LENEI POLOA'IGA, e ala i lo'u sainiaina, fa'atasi ai ma le fa'amaufa'ailoga a lo'u ofisa ua faia i le aso 27 lenei o Setema, i le tausaga o le Mesia e lua afe ma le lua-sefulu ma le tolu.

TALAUEGA E. V. ALE
Kovana Tofia