



ADOPTION STATEMENT

Consideration of UPR Reports: Samoa

UN Human Rights Council

49th session

28 February 2022 to 01 April 2022

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA).

SFHA would like to thank the Government of Samoa for its willingness to engage in open and constructive dialogue with civil society throughout the UPR process.

SFHA celebrates Samoa's commitment to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to protect survivors of violence and wholly eliminate domestic and gender-based violence. We also welcome the commitment to establish a national referral system for survivors of violence and ensure adequate allocation of resources.

We are pleased with Samoa's commitment to improving access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for women in rural areas.

We applaud the commitment to adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy and comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents. We see this as an important tool in strengthening the government's initiative to address gender-based violence, as well as contributing to the reduction of adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections amongst young people.

SFHA would also like to thank the government of Samoa for the work undertaken in partnership with civil society, academia and other stakeholders to revise the current Family Life Education programme and recommend that it is aligned with the UN International Technical Guidelines on Sexuality Education.

As close partners of the government in areas of sexual and reproductive health, education and gender-based violence, SFHA and its partners stand ready to support and collaborate with the government in its implementation of these recommendations to ensure that human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed for all.

Thank you.