



The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations Inc.

- SUNGO -

Acting National President:
Peseta M Afoa Arasi Tiotio

National Secretary:
Leilua F Toni Tipamaa

National Treasurer:
Roina Vavatau

Chief Executive Officer:
Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia

20 November 2020

PRESS RELEASE

The hard work has paid off for the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organization, after the five-week assessment.

Taumeasina, Apia – SUNGO in collaboration with the UNDP facilitated the Spotlight Initiative and it saw how the United Nations as well as the European Union have worked in a collaborative effort to ensure its success, now and in the future. Close to 30 Civil Society organizations attended the Capacity Assessment Stakeholders End Report Forum. The Opening Prayer was led by Reverend Misiperetiso Ivara from the Gaualofa Ministry; who further elaborated on the impacts of Violence, stating that whenever a man abuses a woman it simply means that “The helpless man, is abusing his helper from God”. He also put emphasis on NOT Lessening violence, but to stop/end/eliminate it. Afioga Peseta Malouamaa Afoa Arasi Tiotio delivered the opening remarks, where she pointed out that better coordination is the only way forward. In addition to that, she requested for a steering committee to be established, in order to sustain the program. Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, is the main objective behind the Spotlight Initiative. Peseta also challenged the CSO stakeholders, to look at thine selves and start a change NOW. One of the Guest Speakers at the Spotlight Initiative for CSO Capacity Assessment Stakeholders End Report Forum, was Susuga Moliei Simi – Vaai, who is the CEO for the ministry of Justice Courts and Administration. She said that the number of violence related matters in court, accelerates. But can be stopped if we work together. Susuga Papalii Monalisa Tiai Ketu who is the Assistant Police Commissioner, commented on how the number of incest and rape cases are on the rise. From 1 January 2020 – 30 October 2020, 807 cases were reported, which involved 849 victims. 67% of these victims are women and girls, and 245 cases erupted because of alcohol. As part of the Ministry of Police’s aim for Safety, working together for a safer Samoa is what matters most. The motivational Speaker who took the stand later, was Leilua Lino, a 21-year-old Spotlight Initiative Ambassador, who is also a champion from Violence. According to Leilua, what happened life as a young girl, she had to leave her home because her own mother could not protect her. It affected her mentally, which led to wanting to commit suicide. But when she spoke up about it, she felt that there’s hope. Urging other young women to speak up and be messengers of hope to all of Samoa and abroad, saying that If I can, you can too. No More excuses, no more victim play, she is a survivor of violence. The Forum was a success, and is hoping to sustain the project, in the coming years, for the future generations of Samoa.

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