



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

PROCLAMATION

**“DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
October 2024”**

“Heal, Hold, and Center”

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pervasive problem that affects and impacts individuals of all ages, genders, backgrounds, families across our islands, our communities as a whole, inflicting lasting scars on survivors and leading to long-term emotional and psychological trauma. Domestic violence is not just a statistic, but a deeply personal tragedy that shatters lives, disrupts families, and reverberates through our communities, leaving scars both seen and unseen; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year, “Heal, Hold, and Center,” emphasizes on working together, embracing the many cultural ways we can HEAL from violence and oppression, commit to HOLDING space for survivors, and CENTER those most marginalized in all of our efforts to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the resilience, courage, and strength of survivors of domestic violence, who have embarked on their healing journeys and acknowledge the importance of holding space for their stories, their pain, and their recovery, while also committing ourselves to fostering an environment of safety, respect, and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, efforts to end domestic violence require the collective action of individuals, organizations, government agencies, everyone in American Samoa from matais to the youth, from church leaders to community groups, where each voice, from government halls to village paths and in the walls of our own homes, contributes to building a culture of safety, respect, and accountability and uniting in the fight against domestic violence, embodying the spirit of tautua (service) and the commitment to protect and uplift one another; and

WHEREAS, we honor the work of local organizations, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, educators, and advocates who are dedicated to preventing domestic violence and assisting survivors in their healing journeys, we are steadfast in our commitment to nurturing a society where every individual, regardless of their journey, is met with compassion, given the tools to heal, and empowered to live a life free from the shadow of violence, and through raising awareness and fostering understanding, we can challenge the ingrained norms and misconceptions that allow domestic violence to persist, encouraging every survivor to speak out and seek help without fear or shame.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in American Samoa. In alignment with the theme “Heal, Hold & Center,” I call upon all citizens to join in this solemn and vital observance, to participate in programs and activities that promote healing, offer support, and center the needs of survivors. Let us stand in solidarity and work tirelessly toward a future where peace, equity, and respect are the birthrights of every person in our islands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 20th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.


LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor