

# OceaniaHR

A Grassroots NGO Movement

For the Promotion & Protection of  
Global Human Rights in the Pacific

OceaniaHR is pleased to participate in the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. It is in this historic session that the human rights situation in Oceania – the liquid continent – is being part of the global dialogue in this first round. We believe this 11<sup>th</sup> session is genuinely a Pacific round of the Universal Periodic Review.

We are pleased to participate and look forward to further creative collaboration to ensure the effective promotion and protection of human rights in the Pacific. We believe this session will be a very important step toward social justice in Oceania.

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## **Samoa: A Strong State With a Potential for Stronger Role in Regional Human Rights Recognizing Traditional Models of Governance**

### **1.**

**Issue:** Samoa should work to create a culture of human rights through ratification of international instruments. Samoa has only adopted 3 of the international instruments – the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. There are major concerns regarding violence against women in Samoa though.

**Question:** Will Samoa turn in its delinquent reports on the three treaties it has ratified? Will Samoa ratify the remaining human rights treaties? Will Samoa invite the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women to visit immediately?

**Recommendation:** Samoa should complete its reports with assistance from regional NGOs. Samoa should also continue cooperation with NGOs to pursue plan of action for adoption of remaining treaties. Samoa should coordinate an open visit of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.

2.

**Issue:** Samoa should teach human rights education in its schools. Samoa has many strong authors and cultural leaders that can play a positive role in creating national human rights curriculum.

**Question:** Will Samoa work with cultural leaders and traditional elders to adopt a national plan of action to teach human rights?

**Recommendation:** Samoa should create a national plan of action for human rights education in Samoa especially teaching the rights in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3.

**Issue:** The Pacific is the only region without a regional human rights mechanism. Samoa could play a prominent role to bring together states of the Pacific to understand the importance of such a regional mechanism to promote the Pacific perspective of human rights in the global discussion.

**Question:** Will Samoa share its ideas and explore potential institutions for such a regional human rights mechanism? Can Samoa agree to host such a meeting inviting all participants interested in such a summit on human rights?

**Recommendation:** Samoa network with other states in the Pacific along with civil society to ensure a strong regional human rights mechanism.

**4.**

**Issue:** Samoa is currently divided due to colonization in the Pacific. Samoa should explore potential reunification to unite the people of Samoa.

**Question:** What steps are being taken to promote unification of the Samoa people?

**Recommendation:** Samoa share potential models of unification that could strengthen human rights throughout Samoa.