



# info sheet Human Rights

## SAMOA & HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES AND OBLIGATIONS

Samoa only agrees to be bound to a human rights treaty or convention when it is satisfied that its domestic laws are compliant and local context is suitable and appropriate for practical application of such treaties. As a member of the United Nations, Samoa accepts the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the UN Charter.

To date Samoa is a party to six of the nine core human rights conventions. These include,

- 1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - 1992***
- 2. Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) - 1994***
- 3. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CPRD) - 2016***
- 4. Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) - 2012***
- 5. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) - 2008***
- 6. Convention Against Torture (CAT) - 2019***

The three remaining treaties that Samoa has yet to sign up to are,

- 1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)***
- 2. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)***
- 3. Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW)***

As a signatory and party to 6 of the 9 core conventions (together with other international Agreements relating to climate change, trade and labor and others) Samoa is obliged to undertake the legal rights and obligations contained in these treaties. For example, putting in place measures to eliminate discrimination, ensure equal access to and equal opportunities and others.

It is important to note, that while Samoa has agreed to be bound by these major international human rights treaties, they do not form part of Samoa's domestic law unless the treaties have been specifically incorporated into Samoa law through legislation. Some provisions of a treaty may however already exist in national legislation.

Further to domesticating these treaties, the Government is also obligated to provide reports to the UN, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations.