

## HUMAN RIGHTS & FA'ASAMOA: "THE NATURAL LINK"

The promotion of human rights has not always been an easy feat. It was evident that there was a common misconception that the concept of human rights is a Western construct. This misconception is compounded by the belief that human rights are individual rights that threaten the collective focus of Fa'asamoa.

One of the main challenges for our society is to reconcile Fa'asamoa and the international system of human rights protection. However, **the two concepts are complementary and mutually reinforcing**. International human rights recognises collective and cultural rights which properly used, should reinforce Fa'asamoa and individual rights in the rapidly changing modern world.

“ *Human rights and the Fa'asamoa share core values and are therefore inextricably linked.* ”

E fa'avae aia tatau a tagata soifua i agatausili autu po'o faiga autu o le amanaia, fa'atauaina tutusa ma le malupuipui o tagata uma. E fa'apena fo'i i le faiga fa'asamoa ua tatou masani ai. E i ai lava faiga autu e lima ta'itaina ai fesootaiga i le va o tagata, e pei o le Amanania, fa'atauaina, alofa puipuiga ma le tautua. E ogatasi ma lagolagoina aia tatau a le tagata soifua.

Fa'asamoa embraces inclusivity, respect, peace, love, protection. Va tapuia refers to sacred relationships and is considered important in how we interact with one another which is founded and grounded on the principle of fa'aaloalo for one another. It is no surprise that the relationship between human rights and fa'asamoa can be mutually reinforcing given they are both rooted in dignity of the person, love, equality and respect.

