



MO LE SILAFIA

QUARTERLY



JANUARY - MARCH 2025 ISSUE 1

Komesina o Sulufaiga

GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (GANHRI) ANNUAL MEETING - GENEVA



Participants at Global Alliance Of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Annual Meeting



(L - R) Maualavao Pepe Seiuli (Acting Ombudsman) & Ulugia Rose Toese (Director NHRI)

We are glad to share experiences and idea with our NHRI colleagues from around the world for the Global Alliance Of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Annual Meeting 2025!

With human rights, international law, and the multi-lateral system facing mounting pressures across the globe, NHRIs from all regions convened to strengthen cooperation and develop strategic approaches to promote and protect human rights amid complex global challenges. The event was co-hosted with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and co-funded by the European Union.

Participants examined strategies to combat gender-based violence, implement legal reforms, challenge stereotypes through education, and strengthen institutional frameworks for gender inclusion. The conference culminated in the adoption of an Outcome Statement that reaffirms the urgency of countering pushbacks on gender rights, strengthening accountability through NHRIs, and upholding international human rights commitments.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/www.hrc.org.zm/>

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AFIOGA MAUALAIVAO PEPE SEIULI

SOIFUA MANUIA & WELCOME to the first 'Mo le Silafia' (MLS) quarterly for 2025.

For starters, the Office with the British High Commission Office support attended the Geneva GANDRI Annual Meeting where more than 300 participants attended.

At local level, our Office Teams despite the weather, were on local duty travels to roll out awareness Booths at Salelologa and to update mutual information with Police Outposts in Savaii

Further, the celebration of the International Women's Day was highlighted in recognition of not just the Office colleagues, but also for all Samoan women worldwide.

Furthermore, the ongoing partnership with OEC and the WTMedia has contributed to the current televised program titled *Your vote your voice*, a timely initiative for the public in making informed if not reasonable decisions.

Ia manuia Samoa.
Fa'afetai tele & God Bless.

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TANUMALALA & OLOAMANU PRISON VISIT – SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

On January 31 2025, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of the Office of the Ombudsman conducted a special site visit to Tanumalala and Oloamanu Prisons, for complaint box checks and inspections. Also the time to touch base with management on specific administrative issues.

This visit reaffirms the Office's commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability, and the protection of human rights within correctional facilities.

Thank you again to the Deputy Commissioner Leiataua Samuelu Afamasaga and staff for availing your time to meet with us.



(L-R) SIU Principal Officer & Investigator Leota T Leota SIU Director Lagafuaina Tavita Deputy Commissioner Leiataua S. Afamasaga, Acting Ombudsman Maualaivao P. Seiuli and UN Resident Coordinator Momoko Nomura



Time Out for a Group Photo during the Ombudsman Office Prisons Visits and Inspection

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BRINGING OMBUDSMAN INFORMATION & SERVICES TO SAVAI'I

FEBRUARY 19 - 21, 2025

The Office of the Ombudsman was on the ground in Savai'i, engaging with the community at the Salelologa Market. This outreach provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about their rights, good governance, and the Ombudsman's complaint handling services.

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) altogether with the Education and Communication Unit (ECU) were rolling out a public booth at the Salelologa market on the first day before the SIU Team took to the road so to visit Police Outposts across Savaii.

In effect, SIU kindly informed Savaii residents who are unable to visit the Ombudsman Office in person that complaint boxes located at all Police Stations in Savai'i including Tuasivi, Fagamalo, Asau, and Vaito'omuli are available for submitting your concerns. Further the SIU Team also collected information from the respective outposts over the two days, ensuring that all enquiries and complaints reached our office for review.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who stopped by to speak with our team, ask questions, and share their concerns. The Office of the Ombudsman remains committed to ensuring access to justice and strengthening human rights across Samoa.



SIU Director Ms. Lagafuaina Tavita and Principal Investigator Leota Taalo
Leota meeting with the public at Salelologa



Education and Communication Unit (ECU) Senior Officer Afoa G. Jerry Ah Kee
helping a client at the Salelologa Public Booth.



OMB Staff with Uesiliana College students who took their time to visit the Salelologa OMB Public Booth

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OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

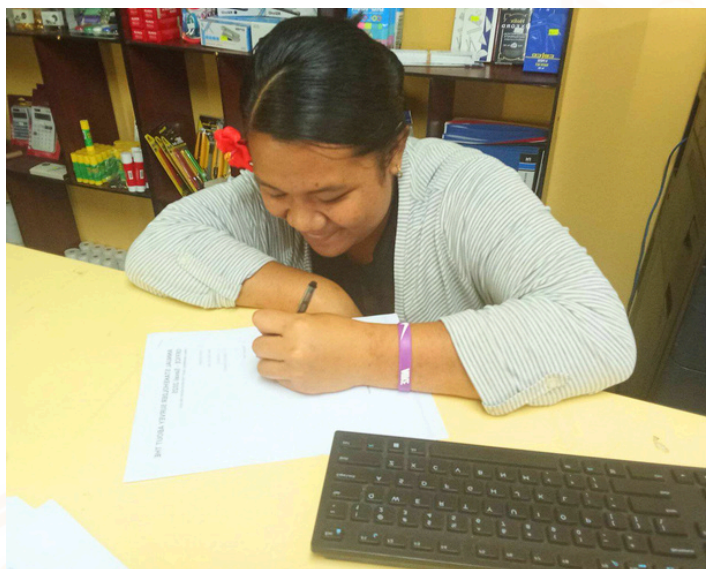
GATHERING PUBLIC VIEWS – STAKEHOLDER SURVEY, SALELOLOGA MARKET

Part of the Savaii public engagement mission was also to conduct a survey on human rights matter at Salelologa Market. The goal was to gather valuable feedback on public awareness of our roles, human rights, and good governance. Despite the poor weather conditions, the Team were still able to carry out the survey at the Salelologa wharf. In effect, the ECU Team were stranded at the Salelologa wharf and was made to stay overnight because the inter-island shipping service was closed due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Our most sincere fa'afetai tele lava to everyone who were kind enough in taking their time to participate! Your valuable feedback truly matters in strengthening fairness, accountability, and the protection of rights across Samoa. Together, we build a more informed and empowered society! Fa'afetai tele mo fautuaga i lenei galuega.



An invaluable moment when OMB staff were engaging in interactive discussions with Uesiliana College senior students as well as the public who were kind and curious enough to participate in the Human Rights Survey at Salelologa Market



Folasaitu Ietitia Seiuli in discussion and conducting the Human Rights Survey while a participant participated with completing the required form at the Salelologa Market



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OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025



Happy Women's Day - Advancing Equality and Achievements March 8 2025

We happily join the world in celebrating International Women's Day under the theme "Accelerate Action" a global call to recognize and support initiatives that advance women's empowerment and equality.

In honor of this special day, the Office of the Ombudsman held a celebration on Friday, 7th March, acknowledging the incredible contributions of women in our communities and reaffirming our commitment to gender equality and human rights. Staff proudly wore purple to symbolize justice, dignity, and solidarity in the movement toward a more inclusive and equitable future.

Let's continue to champion and uplift the voices of women and girls in Samoa and beyond!

WHAT THE OMBUDSMAN CANNOT INVESTIGATE



GOOD
GOVERNANCE UNIT
HOWEVER, DOES
NOT INVESTIGATE
COMPLAINTS
AGAINST:

PRIVATE
INDIVIDUALS OR
COMPANIES OR
OTHER NON
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

DECISIONS OF THE
COURTS

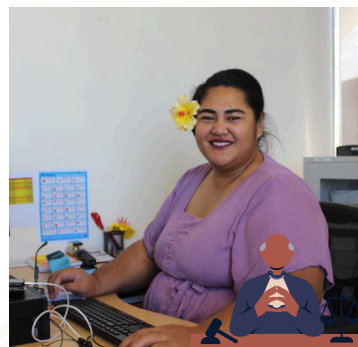
DECISIONS OF
STATUTORY
TRIBUNALS



Nepa Camilla Papalii



Salamasina Sanele



Phaedra Lameko



Rosuweti Galuvao



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OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

UK SUPPORTS HUMAN RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT MARCH 7, 2025



(L-R) NHRI Director Ulugia Rosa Toese in discussion with Deputy High Commissioner, Daniel Garlick

The British High Commission in Apia supports the Office of the Ombudsman in Samoa through financial assistance to enable Ms. Rosa Toese Siaosi, Director Human Rights Unit, to participate in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Annual meeting 10-12 March and the Annual meeting of the

Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights (CFNHRI) from 13-14 March. Deputy High Commissioner, Daniel Garlick, wished her well on her journey and a very successful meeting.






Source: UK in Samoa

**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK - TAKE
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CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS
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GOOD GOVERNANCE UNIT

Purpose of the Good Governance Unit

- 1 The Good Governance Unit aims to ensure that public institutions effectively deliver their mandates while satisfying public expectations. It focuses on promoting principles such as transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in governance.



Core Attributes of Good Governance

- 2 Key attributes of good governance include transparency in actions, accountability to the public, responsible management of resources, active participation of citizens, and responsiveness to the people's needs. These elements are fundamental in fostering trust and integrity in governmental functions.



Limitations of Investigation

- 3 The Good Governance Unit does not have jurisdiction over private individuals, court decisions, or statutory tribunal outcomes. Additionally, it may refuse to investigate complaints based on criteria such as the existence of another remedy, the age of the complaint, and lack of public interest.



OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

O LAU PALOTA, O LOU LEO – STRENGTHENING VOTER AWARENESS IN SAMOA , FEB TO MARCH 2025



(L-R) Filming OMB Staff at work with SIU Director Lagafuaina Tavita and GGU Director Fuimaono Vaiao Eteuati.



WT Media camera in action with Fauatea Seiuli Puniala filming Episode 1 of “O lau Palota o lou Leo” TV series.

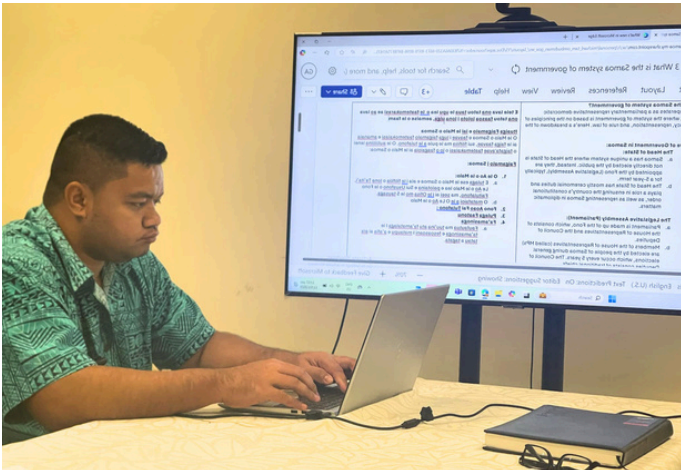
The Office of the Ombudsman, in collaboration with the Office of the Electoral Commission and WT Media, continues its voter awareness program *O Lau Palota, O Lou Leo*, aimed at educating Samoan citizens on their fundamental right to vote.

The first episode aired in late February on TV 1, and we are now in our fifth episode, with each 30-minute segment broadcast on Sunday afternoons after the news. This program provides valuable insights into the importance of voting, ensuring that citizens 21 years and older understand their role in shaping Samoa's democracy.

With a growing audience, *O Lou Palota, O Lou Leo* has successfully engaged and informed voters about their rights and responsibilities. The Office of the Ombudsman remains committed to promoting civic participation and voter education across Samoa. Stay tuned for upcoming episodes!

OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

O LAU PALOTA, O LOU LEO – BEHIND THE SCENES , FEB TO MARCH 2025



(L-R) Script planning and translation moments with Afoa Jerry Gagau Ah Kee and some of the Production Team.

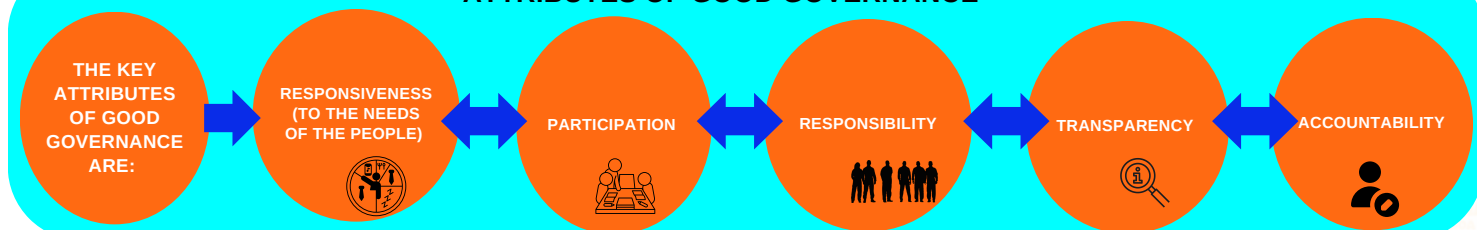


(L-R) WTMedia Production Team and OMB Staff in action preparing final content edits before filming.



(L-R) Take 3, 2, 1 time for Episode 1 with Fauatea Seiuli Puniala on camera, WTMedia Production Director Rudy Bartley, and ECU Director Tupuola Toetu Isa'ako Tuiā for the Office of the Ombudsman.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE



OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

O LAU PALOTA, O LOU LEO – BEHIND THE SCENES , FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025



(L-R) Filming time for Episode 2 with Fauatea Seuli on camera, Production Director Rudy Bartley, Content translator Afoa Jerry Gagau Ah Kee and SIU Director Lagafuaina Tavita representing the Ombudsman Office.

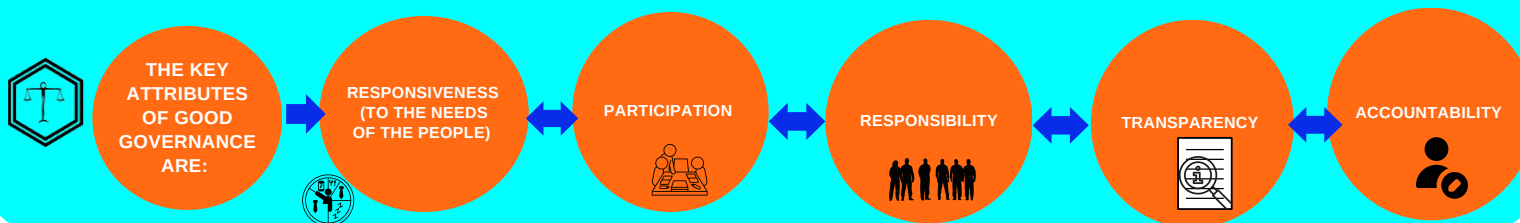


(L-R) Episode 3 presented by SIU Principal Investigator Leota Ta'alo Leota and Episode 4 with CSU Director Muliagatele Davina Rasch representing the Ombudsman Office



(l-r) Episode 5 action time with GGU Director Fuimaono Vaiao Eteuati with Producer and Director Rudy Bartley

ATTRIBUTES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE



OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

OMBUDSMAN OFFICE NHRI MEETINGS PARTICIPATION

Meetings Attended:

Pacific Community Outreach Hui 9 (ZOOM)

Records Taskforce Meeting

Cabinet Liaisons Training

Training on Operating Electric Cars

Validation Workshop - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
Legislative Compliance Review (LCR)

DATE

18 Feb 2025

24 Feb 2025

17 March 2025

17 March 2025

27 March 2025

Hosted By

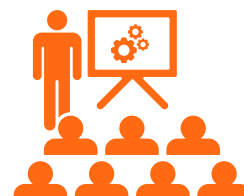
Office of the Ombudsman New Zealand

Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC)

MPMC

MWTI

MWSD



The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was set up in 2016 and is responsible for:

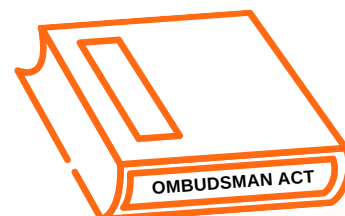
1

receiving, investigating and determining any complaints about a police officer, prison officer or officer of other prescribed disciplined force; and



2

carrying out any other functions, duties or powers under any other Act or as are prescribed by regulations.



SIU however, is not to investigate any matter that is being investigated or inquired into by the Police, Prisons or prescribed disciplined force under their respective Acts, unless an exception applies which include situations where the Ombudsman has reasons to believe that:

1

there is an abuse of process by the Police, Prisons or prescribed disciplined force; or



2

there has been an unreasonable delay in the investigation; or



3

the matter has not been appropriately investigated.



Mo Le SILAFIA Newsletter Vol 2 Issue 8
(Oct 2023- Dec 2023)



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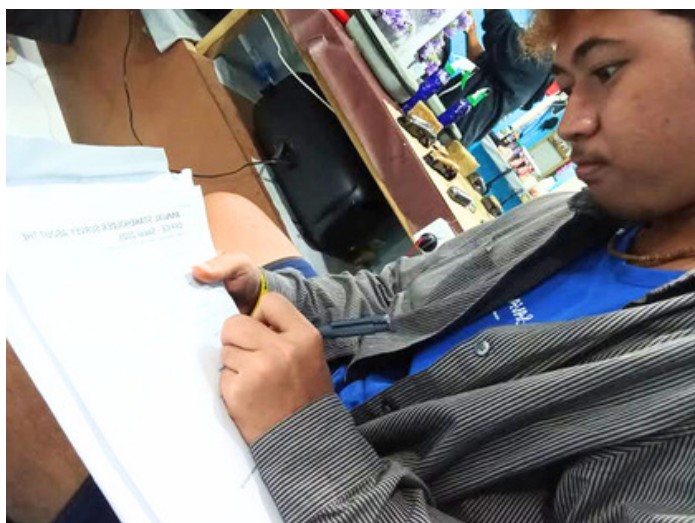


Mo Le SILAFIA Newsletter Vol 1 Issue 7
(July 2023- Sep 2023)

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OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

GATHERING PUBLIC VIEWS – SURVEY AT SALELOLOGA WHARF



Rolling out the NHRI Annual Stakeholder Survey at Salelologa Wharf



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OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

RADIO 2AP OMBUDSMAN OFFICE AWARENESS TALK SHOW FEBURARY 17 2025



(L-R) Afoa Gagau Jerry Ah Kee Senior ECU Officer with Leota Ta'alo Leota Principal SIU Investigation Officer; and Principal Multimedia Engagement Officer Michael Tamanikaiyaroi

As an essential part of our awareness efforts nationwide, a radio and television talk show with TV9 and Radio 2AP has been a regular commitment for the Office. Senior Engagement Officer Mamea Jerry Ah Kee, Principal SIU Investigation Officer Leota Taalo Leota, and Principal Multimedia Engagement Officer Michael Tamanikaiyaroi this time around represented the Ombudsman Office so to raise public awareness about the various roles and core services of the Office. The team also used the opportunity to announce their upcoming events like the outreach visit to Savai'i, where they will be available at the Saleleloga Market for two working days. The aim is to assist the public with relevant information about the Ombudsman's services including complaint handling and human rights matters.



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OMB-TEAM ENGAGEMENTS

STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS MARCH 27 2025



UN Women consultant Naea Beth Onesemo at foreground with stakeholders and participants during a group discussion

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) proudly announces the successful validation of the CEDAW Legislative Review Report, following a full week of national dialogue and inclusive engagement with stakeholders across all sectors of Samoan society.

Led by Mataia Meritiana Fepulea'i-Tanuvasa, Assistant CEO of the Policy, Planning, and Research Division, the process convened voices from government ministries, civil society, the private sector, and individual experts. Over the course of the week, participants engaged in deep, constructive dialogue to examine the alignment of national legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The discussions were enriched by the contributions of delegates who recently returned from the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York, ensuring that global perspectives were meaningfully woven into the national context. Their reflections helped to ground Samoa's review process in both international commitments and community realities.

MWCSO acknowledges with deep appreciation the collaborative spirit shown throughout the week—an embodiment of Samoa's whole-of-society approach to transformative change. The Ministry extends sincere thanks to all participants for their unwavering dedication, critical insights, and shared commitment to shaping a stronger, more inclusive future.

This milestone reaffirms Samoa's resolve to strengthen its legal and policy frameworks to better protect and empower women and children. It reflects a nation guided by faith, driven by partnership, and united in its vision of justice, equity, and opportunity for all.

Source: MWCSO https://100092007305314/posts/588918504185055/?_rdr



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IN-HOUSE MATTERS

STAFF MOVEMENT - OUTGOING STAFF MEMBER

FAREWELL !! - TAGALOA ROPATI SITIVI



(L-R) Afioga Leota Taalo Leota with Tagaloa Ropati Sitivi during an inspection to Tanumalala Prison with Ropati pinning information on Notice Board



Fa'afetai tele Tagaloa Ropati Sitivi mo lou sao taua i lo tatou Ofisa, fa'anmanuia le Atua i lou valaauina e avea ma Malu o le Malo

The Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI Samoa bids a heartfelt farewell to our multi talented colleague Lemalu Tagaloa Ropati Sitivi, who has served the Office of the Ombudsman with dual responsibilities as the Driver and Receptionist for the past five years. His dedication, professionalism, and warm personality have made a lasting impact on everyone.

While we are indeed sad to see him go, we still celebrate with much respect for his new journey and career pathway as he moves on to serve Samoa at the Samoa Police Force. Come to think of it, Tagaloa's calling to pursue a career with SPPCS was apparently dawned upon him after volunteering as an auxiliary traffic officer during CHOGM 2024.

A family man at heart and we have no doubt that he will continue to excel and make a difference in his new role.

Thank you, Ropati, for your hard work and service! We wish you well in this next chapter of your career life.

Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou faiva alofilima ma tiute o le a feagai ai.



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ASSORTED ALBUM FOR JANUARY - MARCH



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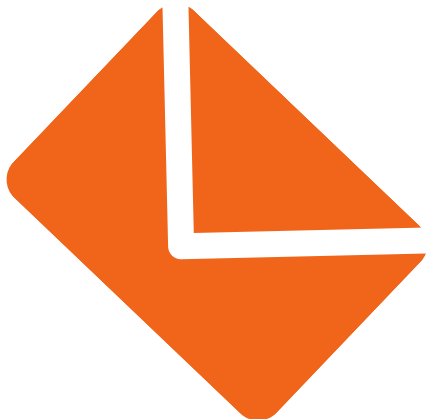
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