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**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**“FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTIONS”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AGE:** |  |
| **GENDER:** |  |
| **DISABILITY:** | * **YES** * **NO** |
| **OCCUPATION STATUS:** |  |
| **NAME OF PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** |  |
| **VILLAGE:** |  |
| **CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE:** |  |

**SECTION 1: UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE**

1. How well do you understand your right to vote?

*Mark only one oval.*

* Very well
* Somewhat well
* Not very well
* Not at all

1. Do you know the requirements to be eligible to vote in your country?

*Mark only one oval.*

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

1. Do you feel confident in your knowledge of the voting process?

*Mark only one oval.*

* Very confident
* Somewhat confident
* Not very confident
* Not at all confident

1. Have you ever faced challenges when trying to vote? (Check all that apply)

* Lack of information
* Registration issues
* Accessibility issues (e.g. physical access to polling stations)
* Long waiting times
* Intimidation or harassment
* Being told who to vote for
* No challenges faced
* Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How easy is it for you to access a polling station.

*Mark only one.*

* Very easy
* Somewhat easy
* Somewhat difficult
* very difficult

1. Have you ever felt pressured or influenced in your choice of candidate? *Check all that apply.*

* Yes
* No
* Prefer not to say

1. If yes, by whom? *Check all that apply.*

* Parents
* Other Family Members
* Campaign Committees
* Village Fono
* Candidates
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever received any type of compensation or other forms of reward for voting for a particular candidate? *Mark only one.*

* Yes
* No
* Prefer not to say

**SECTION 2: ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO ELECTIONS**

1. How do you usually get information about candidates and political parties? (Select all that apply)

* Television
* Radio
* Newspapers
* Social Media
* Official Websites
* Community Meetings
* Friends
* Family

1. How easy is it for you to find reliable information about candidates and political parties? *Mark only one.*

* Very Easy
* Somewhat easy
* Somewhat difficult
* Very Difficult

1. What are your thoughts on social media and its impact on the candidates and the political parties?

1. Do you feel that the information you receive about candidates and political parties are unbiased? *Mark only one.*

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

1. Each political party has a manifesto which outlines their promises should they be successful in an election. In the past elections, did you cast your vote based on a party’s manifesto?

Mark only one.

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

**Section 3: Parliamentary Representation**

1. Have you ever considered running for Parliament? Mark only one.

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

1. If Yes, what motivated you to consider running for Parliament? (Select all that apply?) Check all that apply.

* Desire to make a difference in the community
* Interest in politics
* Encouragement from family and friends
* Dissatisfaction with current representation
* Personal Ambition
* Other

1. If No, what are the main reasons you have not considered running for Parliament? (Select all that apply)

* Lack of interest in politics
* Lack of knowledge about the process
* Financial constraints
* Time Constraints
* Perceived lack of support
* Fear of public Scrutiny
* Lack of Matai Title
* Other \_\_\_\_

1. Do you believe that the current Parliament is representative of Samoa society as a whole?

Mark only one.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neutral
* Disagree
* Strongly Disagree

1. How important is it to you that Parliament reflects the diversity of Samoan society?

Mark only one.

* Very important
* Important
* Neutral
* Not very important
* Not important at all

1. Do you think that the requirement to hold a matai title to run for Parliament should be removed?

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

1. Do you feel that the voices of women are adequately heard and considered in parliamentary decisions? *Mark only one.*

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neutral
* Disagree
* Strongly Disagree

1. What is your opinion on the current quota for women in Parliament? *Mark only one.*

* It should be increased.
* It should be kept as it is.
* It should be removed.
* No opinion

1. Please explain your reasoning for your opinion regarding question 21

1. How important is it for you that diverse groups, including women, persons with disabilities and youth, are encouraged to run for Parliament? *Mark only one.*

* Very important
* Important
* Neutral
* Not very important

1. In your opinion, what could be done to improve the representation of women in Parliament?

1. Do you think there are enough initiatives to support the inclusion of diverse groups in the political process? *Mark only one.*

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

Section 4: Freedom of Expression.

1. Should people be given the freedom to say whatever they want to say to others on social media? *Check all that apply.*

* Yes
* No
* Prefer not to say

1. What is your reason for your answer to the previous question?

1. How do you think hateful content, mis/disinformation online and or cyberbullying should be addressed? (Select all that apply) Check all that apply.

* Ban social media Samoa
* Report it using the social media process (for example, Facebook has a reporting process for bullying and hate content)
* Report it to the local authorities
* Ignore and do nothing about it
* Raise awareness within the communities
* Advocacy on policies within workplaces
* Others (Pleas explain)

1. Is there anything else that you would like to share?

**FAAFETAI TELE LAVA /THANK YOU**