



MO LE SILAFIA QUARTERLY



JANUARY - MARCH 2026 ISSUE 1

Komesina o Sulufaiga

Fulfilling a Human Rights Mandate in the Context of Shrinking Space - London 26 March 2026



Opening Remarks by Chairperson of CFNHRI Lagafuaina Tavita

Across the Commonwealth, civic space – the environment enabling individuals and organisations to freely associate, express and participate in public life – is under increasing pressure.

On 26 March 2025, the National Human Rights Institution Samoa, in its role as current Chair of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, held a high level dialogue in London and online to address the issue of Fulfilling a Human Rights Mandate in the Context of Shrinking Civic Space.

The dialogue was well attended by NHRIs, civil society and international partners who reflected on current trends, shared best practices and charted collective strategies to protect civic freedoms.

At the end of the Forum, a draft CFNHRI Statement on Civic Freedoms was presented which will have further consultation at the CFNHRI Annual General Meeting in Geneva and be presented for formal adoption by the membership in Antigua and Barbuda later this year.



AFIGOA FUIMAONO VAIASO ETEUATI

Talofa lava.

I am pleased to present this edition of the MLS Newsletter covering the period January to March 2026. This issue highlights the ongoing work of the Office of the Ombudsman and National Human Rights Institution in promoting good governance, protecting human rights, and strengthening public trust in Samoa.

During this quarter, the Office continued to carry out its core functions through complaint handling, detention inspections across Upolu and Savai'i, and public awareness outreach to communities and stakeholders. These activities play an important role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness in public administration.

The Office also engaged in regional and international initiatives that strengthen institutional capacity and support the advancement of human rights standards.

I commend the dedication of our staff and thank our partners and stakeholders for their continued collaboration and support.

Faafetai

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