

Mister President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Center for Global Nonkilling is honored to comment on the UPR of Samoa.

First, as some of our recommendations are not mentioned in the final report, we recall how it is important for NGO's to be heard here at the Council; or as we would appreciate it, during the UPR session itself.

Secondly, we renew our call for the establishment of regional human rights mechanisms, in the Pacific region as everywhere. These mechanisms alleviate United Nation's work on human rights and they are more apt to address local customs in accordance with international standards.

Thirdly, Samoa is not the most violent country in the world. However, violence has been the subject of many recommendations made to Samoa. We commend Samoa for accepting them all. Nevertheless, many of them addressed specific aspects of violence, such as domestic violence.

We strongly call the attention of the Council on the fact that it is all forms of violence that need to be addressed to protect human rights. In this regard, the World's Health Organisation program on violence prevention is a useful technical resource for the Council, the UPR and the SDG's.

Finally, we insist on demanding more work from the Council, member States and the secretariat on suicide prevention. We are not talking here about people suffering from a terminal illness. We are talking about people seemingly healthy, that could still enjoy a long and fulfilling life, but who suffer from inadequate social pressure or from a lack of care and help in their situation.

In Samoa as everywhere, the duty to respect the right to life implies a State duty to help these people to come to better terms with life, and with the possibility to celebrate life as it deserves to be.

Thank you for your attention and for your efforts to make life a living pleasure for each and all.

Geneva, 21st of September 2016, international peace day.