

STATEMENT BY THE PASIFIKA YOUTH INITIATIVE HELD AT CRUSOE RETREAT NAMAQUMAQUA, CORAL COAST, FIJI, FROM 3RD TO 7TH OCTOBER, 2022

MATOU (WE) the participants from the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa (CCCS)/Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano I Samoa (EFKS), Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS)/Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano I Amerika Samoa (EFKAS), Congregational Union of New Zealand (CUNZ), Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT) from Tuvalu and Kioa, Kiribati Uniting Church (KUC), Etaretia Poretetani Ma'ohi (EPM), Nauru Congregational Church (NCC), United Church in Papua New Guinea (UCPNG), United Church in Solomon Islands (UCSI), Methodist Church in Fiji & Rotuma and Kanaky New Caledonia Protestant Church (EPKNC) come in consensus with the following;

MATOU (We);

- **HEABIDAE (Acknowledge)**

- that 'Aitu (God) is with us, the creator of the Universe and that matou (we) are stewards of his te hanga (creation) and equal as image bearers of 'Aitu (God).

- the Word of 'Aitu (God) in our lives, that the Word teaches us the way of living

- **TALITONU (Reaffirm)**

- our faith and belief in our 'Aitu (God) and heabidae (acknowledge) that all created beings are equal and deserve equal care and compassion

- our diversity and the ecumenical spirit in the way matou (we) congregate together in te bonnano (solidarity), accountability, and collaboration.

- **ITE (Recognize);**

- the importance of fellowship, sharing and Bible study with fellow young people. Re-reading and re-thinking of biblical texts that creates injustices and oppression in our communities.

- that there is hurt and brokenness in this world, and as young leaders of today matou (we) need to reach out. The Tondak (church) should be the life flourishing, life giving and life sustaining agents in our community

- the lack of understanding indigenous knowledge that is passed on to us as young people to be resilient and practical.

- that matou (we) do not only need to be hearers but also doers of 'Aitu (God)'s Word.

- that the pandemic was a challenging time for many young people and it demonstrated the need for the Tondak (church) to stand out and serve. Matou (We) heabidae (acknowledge) areas where matou (we) could have served. Matou (We) are aware that in times of crisis the Tondak (church) should be the mothering figure, it should counsel, guide, encourage, foster, and promote life in society.

- as stewards of 'Aitu (God)'s te hanga (creation) matou (we) are aware of the human destruction on te hanga (creation). Matou (We) are aware of Deep-Sea Mining taking place in our Oceans and matou (we) stand against it.

STRONGIM (Empower);

- the need to protect and safeguard our children knowing that society today can be unsafe for children, and by educating parents that children are a gift and blessing from 'Āitu (God),
- young people to create and participate in more awareness programs and educate ourselves as young people on child protection and safeguarding the rights of children
- parents to build safe, open and honest relationships with children, and listen to them,
- our Tondak (church) leaders and members (**including youth and children**) to create a child protection policy that is practical and realistic. Our Tondak (churches) work with children and as there are vulnerable children in the communities.
- and foster partnerships with relevant government agencies, organisations, to ensure that the child protection and safeguarding policy can be endorsed and implemented

kola-hë (THE CALL):

With all these mentioned, matou (we) stand in te'bonnano (solidarity) as young Pasifika leaders, to speak up against all issues that affect us and the societies matou (we) live in.

Matou (We) raise our voices and call our leaders in the Tondak (churches) and governments to put a stop to injustice practices, such as; deep sea mining, destruction of the environment, ocean crisis, child abuse, violence against women, boys and girls, the marginalised in our communities (LGBTQIA+, persons living with disabilities, and other minority groups)

Matou (WE), the young leaders of Pasifika and as 'Āitu (God)'s people, matou (we) must use our prophetic voices and take responsibility to ensure a life-flourishing Pasifika today and in the future. Knowing our purpose in life, matou (we) need to be resilient, alert, selfless, faithful, humble, committed, generous, and compassionate towards each other, 'Āitu (God)'s te hanga (creation), and stand together as one people in 'Āitu (God)'s mission.

We also agreed to set aside 5 November, 2022 to do a clean-up campaign at which is to collect rubbish at our different churches and to send our photos of the different places and Islands that we did the clean-up.

Foot notes

MATOU (We) – Samoa

HEABIDAE (Acknowledge) – PNG (Motu)

TALITONU (Reaffirm) – Tuvaluan

ITE (Recognize) – Maòhi

te hanga (creation) - Māori

Tondak (church) - Nauruan

STRONGIM (Empower) – Solomon Islands

kola-hë (THE CALL) – Kanaky Drehu

te bonnano (solidarity) – Kiribati

‘Āitu (God) - Rotuman