

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SAMOA – Add.2

NETHERLANDS

1. Violence against women and children

As mentioned in paragraph 48 of the national report, The Samoa Law Reform Commission has reviewed the Crimes Ordinance 1961 – a statute that has remained unchanged for the last 50 years. A key section that was reviewed was the section that excludes a husband from criminal liability for raping his wife. Will the revised law include the offence of marital rape? What is the status of the reforms of the Criminal Ordinance?

2. Equality and non-discrimination

As mentioned in paragraph 32 of the OHCHR-compilation, Samoa ratified CRC and submitted its initial report in 2006, following the concluding comments on Economic exploitation, including child labor.

“The Committee shares the concern of the State party regarding the growing number of working children, including children involved in domestic work and child street vendors, and the need to undertake targeted activities to address it” .What measures have been taken since then by the government to protect children from child labor ?

3. Women’s rights

We took note of paragraph 63 of the national report which states that the issue of under-representation of women in parliament remains. What are currently the government actions in terms of temporary special measures to ensure women equally participate in the political sphere? Could you also elaborate on your sentence ‘this could appropriately be addressed through consolidated commitment from women themselves’?