

YOUTH STATEMENT

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION – PACIFIC REGION YOUTH INITIATIVE (27 to 31 October 2025)

Introduction

We, the young people of the Pacific, representing the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Congregational Union of New Zealand, Cook Islands Christian Church, Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, Kiribati Uniting Church, Nauru Congregational Church, United Church Papua New Guinea, United Church Solomon Islands, and Etaretia Porotetani Maohi, affirm that God is our Creator and that we are called to be faithful stewards of Creation.

Gathered in Maohi Nui; under the swaying palms, the scent of frangipani, and the vast horizon of the Pacific Ocean, we came together at the **Nuclear and Climate Justice 2025 Youth Conference**—to learn, to share stories, to pray, and to seek understanding as one Pacific family.

Lessons

Through the themes of **Youth Leadership, Climate Justice, Nuclear Justice, and Partnership**, we confronted the harsh realities facing our region. We were reminded that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but active changemakers today. We listened to raw truths from Tuvalu, Nauru, Kiribati and beyond—stories of resilience in the face of environmental and human-made injustices. We walked on land still carrying the wounds of nuclear testing and recognised the partnerships, organisations, and churches working tirelessly for justice.

The Bible studies grounded us, helping us see the Lord's Prayer through the lens of climate change, calling us to continue reflecting theologically on our responsibility as God's people.

From our time together in Maohi Nui and with the EPM church, we proclaim that **our faith compels us to protect life, speak truth, and seek peace.**

We also learned that being physically present in the places where these issues are felt most deeply—including Maohi Nui—has a far greater impact than discussing them from a distance. Being on the ground transforms understanding into empathy and solidarity. Therefore we acknowledge CWM for bringing this program to the member churches and their communities.

We leave this conference with a renewed sense of **responsibility, gratitude, and solidarity**. The generous hospitality of Maohi Nui; their culture, stories, land, and love, taught us what it means to receive and to give back. We witnessed a community living with the ongoing impacts of nuclear injustice, yet standing firm in hope, dignity, and resistance.

We also acknowledge the struggles faced by many of our Pacific islands and we return home carrying the lessons and voices entrusted to us, committed to raising awareness, speaking for the voiceless, and contributing to climate and nuclear justice across Oceania.

Commitment

As participants, we commit to using our skills, opportunities, and platforms to support climate and nuclear justice in the Pacific.

We will strengthen our advocacy, serve our communities with humility, and raise awareness in our churches and youth groups through education, prayer, and meaningful conversations.

We will continue honouring important dates such as **Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day**, and encourage youth engagement in justice work.

As young people, we also recognise that justice begins with integrity in how we gather and care for one another. We respectfully suggest that future workshops implement either a clearly designated smoking area or a complete ban during sessions. At the Youth Initiative in Maohi Nui, many of us were exposed to second-hand smoke, which made us passive smokers. While we stand in unity with our Pasifika families in the EPM in the fight for nuclear justice, we also believe that smoking—which is a major cause of cancer—must be addressed. It felt contradictory to speak about justice while cigarette butts were thrown on the land we seek to protect. Justice must begin within our own spaces.

We also commit to amplifying the experiences of Pacific peoples whose lands, cultures, and identities are threatened by rising seas, nuclear legacies, and extractive industries.

Above all, we will return home ready to inform, inspire, and mobilise others to stand with our Pacific region.

Call to Action

We call upon churches, youth groups, communities, and partners across the Pacific and beyond to join us in the work of justice:

- **We call for Nuclear Justice** – recognising the nuclear legacy in the Pacific, honouring the generations who carry pain and trauma, and advocating for accountability, healing, and reparation.
- **We call for Climate Justice** – protecting our islands, oceans, and people from the escalating impacts of climate change.
- **We call for the Defence of Land and Ocean** – resisting destructive practices such as deep-sea mining and unsustainable development.
- **We call for the Recognition of Indigenous Knowledge** – affirming the wisdom, traditions, and authority of our communities.
- **We call for Faith-Driven Action** – encouraging churches to pray, educate, advocate, and stand boldly for justice.
- **We call for CWM’s physical presence at global forums** – such as COP and UN platforms on climate and nuclear justice—because standing in solidarity must go beyond words; we must show up and speak alongside our Pacific communities on the world stage.

Conclusion

We give thanks to God for the fellowship, wisdom, and unity we have shared. We leave Maohi Nui strengthened by prayer, grounded in faith, and uplifted by the Spirit that moves through our Pacific family. Though we return to different islands, nations, and communities, we remain connected through God’s call to love, justice, and stewardship of Creation.

May our hearts stay open, our voices courageous, and our actions guided by faith, hope, and love as we journey forward together.

