



**United Nations Declaration on the  
Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

# **A Declaration plan in Aotearoa**







COVER: This pou was gifted to the Indigenous Mapuche people of Chile by the Minister for Māori Development at a special ceremony in March 2019.

Photo credit: Catalina Le-Bert.

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Rangiwatea Tahapeehi and mokopuna Te Kororangi Cowan at their papakāinga in Ngāruawāhia.

# What is the Declaration?

**The Declaration sets out the rights of Indigenous peoples and was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007.**

It includes a broad range of **rights and freedoms**, including the right of self-determination, culture and identity, and rights to education, economic development, religious customs, health and language.

**The right of self-determination is central to the Declaration.** The exercise of self-determination is indispensable for Indigenous peoples' enjoyment of all their other rights. It outlines how governments must support Indigenous peoples in realizing and exercising their rights.


**New Zealand announced its support of the Declaration in 2010 and is committed to improving Māori outcomes.** Aotearoa is developing a Declaration plan to measure our progress in addressing Indigenous rights and interests.






# Why is this kaupapa important?

A Declaration plan will:



**contribute to strengthening tino rangatiratanga and improving Māori wellbeing** by affirming their rights, including the right of self-determination, as the Indigenous peoples of New Zealand



**assist the Government with realising Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strengthening Māori-Crown relations** as part of the Government's priority to lay foundations for the future, especially in the COVID-19 recovery



**enhance New Zealand's reputation internationally** by recognising our commitment to advocate for the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples



**benefit all New Zealanders.**

# What are the key timeframes in New Zealand?

## **September 2021 – early February 2022**

Implementation of targeted engagement strategy

## **March 2022**

Report to Cabinet on targeted engagement feedback and seek approval of process for drafting Declaration plan

## **March – May 2022**

Draft the Declaration plan

## **June 2022**

Cabinet approval of draft Declaration plan and proposal for wider public consultation

## **July – September 2022**

Public consultation

## **Early December 2022**

Cabinet approval of final Declaration plan

## **Late December 2022**

Release Declaration plan

Photo on opposite page is of rangatahi at Te Herenga Waka Marae, Victoria University in Wellington. Photo credit: Adrian Heke.

# How will this process strengthen rangatiratanga/mana motuhake for whānau?

Whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations will **identify the priorities that go into the plan**

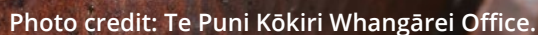
**Iwi will lead** the targeted engagement until early February

**The National Iwi Chairs Forum, through the Pou Tikanga, is working in partnership** with the Government to develop a Declaration plan and will work with officials to facilitate targeted engagement with Māori

**This mahi fits within the Pou Tikanga priority** (November 2020), of “Working in partnership with government to implement and monitor a National Plan of Action for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”.



**Indigenous peoples – including Māori – and governments were involved in drafting the Declaration.** It reflects existing international human rights standards and also develops specific rights, including collective rights, relevant to Indigenous peoples.





# How does the Declaration relate to Te Tiriti o Waitangi?

**Te Tiriti guaranteed to Māori ongoing rangatiratanga and rights to all their taonga.** It also promised equality for Māori and continuation of all their customs.

**The Declaration provides a set of minimum standards to be achieved for Indigenous peoples to enjoy those rights.**

**Both documents express Māori authority to govern themselves and determine their own destinies,** to participate in Crown governance, law and policy, and to have their rights protected.

# What are the Declaration's key themes?



## **Self-determination**

Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination, including for their economic, social, and cultural development. Indigenous peoples have the right to self-government, including to maintain and strengthen their own governing institutions.



## **Equality and non-discrimination**

Indigenous peoples are free and equal to all others, and have the right to be free from discrimination.



## **Participation in government**

Indigenous peoples retain their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural right of the state, through representatives chosen by themselves. This includes duties on the state to obtain Indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent before adopting measures that may affect them.



### **Social, cultural and economic wellbeing**

Indigenous peoples have the right to improve their political, social and economic systems and to maintain, control, develop, protect and transmit their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and languages.



### **Lands, territories and resources**

Indigenous peoples have the right to own and control the lands they possess, as well as the right to compensation for the taking of their lands. States shall provide legal recognition of their lands through fair and open processes.



# How to get involved



Email the UN Declaration Team  
[UNDRIP@hrc.co.nz](mailto:UNDRIP@hrc.co.nz)



Attend a workshop



Visit [tpk.nz/undrip](http://tpk.nz/undrip)



Send in a written submission



*Iwi Chairs Forum Secretariat*



**Te Puni Kōkiri**  
MINISTRY OF MĀORI DEVELOPMENT



**NZ  
Human  
Rights.**

Te Kāhui Tika Tangata  
Human Rights Commission