

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Where can I find more information on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

For a copy of the Declaration in full, in English and te reo Māori, visit:

<https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/3114/2415/7159/HRC-UNDRIP-web.pdf>

A child and youth friendly version of the Declaration is available at: <https://heritagebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/UNDRIP-for-indigenous-adolescents.pdf>

Further information about the Declaration and the development of a Declaration Plan is available at:

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/un-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>

Do other countries have Declaration Plans?

New Zealand will be one of the first countries to develop a Declaration Plan.

Federal legislation recently passed in [Canada](#) requires the Canadian Government to prepare and implement an action plan. The Canadian Government is engaging with Indigenous Peoples there as part of that process. Similar legislation is also in place in the Province of British Columbia, and a [Draft Declaration Plan](#) has been produced for consultation there.

In Canada, a [National Action Plan](#) for Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQI+ People. Work is underway in [Australia](#) and in Aotearoa towards developing a [National Action Plan Against Racism](#).

What other guidance is there on a Declaration Plan?

In 2019, members of the **United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)** – a group of independent experts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples – visited New Zealand to provide advice on developing a Declaration Plan. Their advice and recommendations cover six themes: Self-Determination; Participation, Partnership and Consultation; Education, Health and Justice; Systemic Challenges; General issues; Monitoring and Review; and Follow-up.

The **EMRIP Advisory Note** is available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Session12/EMRIPAdvisoryNoteNZ2019.docx>

In 2019, an expert advisory group appointed by the Minister for Māori Development provided advice on the potential form and content of a Declaration Plan. The Working Group report called **He Puapua**, recommends a focus on self-determination and tino rangatiratanga, while also addressing themes of: Māori participation; land, territories and resources; rights to culture; equity and fairness. The report highlights existing initiatives that are advancing Te Tiriti and the Declaration, and proposes further actions, staged over time, for achieving full realisation by 2040, the bicentenary of the signing of Te Tiriti.

The full **He Puapua** report is available here:

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/documents/download/documents-1732-A/Proactive%20release%20He%20Puapua.pdf> and the Executive Summary can be found here: <https://www.tpk.govt.nz/docs/undrip/tpk-undrip-he-puapua.pdf>

The 2016 report of **Matike Mai Aotearoa** provides some useful background to the creation of the Declaration, and its relationship to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to Māori values and tikanga. Like *He Puapua*, Matike Mai Aotearoa looks towards a vision of 2040. It discusses underpinning values, and outlines a series of potential models to support an inclusive, Tiriti-base constitution for Aotearoa.

The **Matike Mai** report is available at:

<http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/MatikeMaiAotearoaReport.pdf>

The *Matike Mai* report notes that the Declaration is important because “it is the sum of what literally thousands of Indigenous Peoples have regarded as a minimum international set of human rights”. (Matike Mai, p63)

The respected kuia Erihapeti Murchie was one of those who was actively involved along with others in the early drafting stages. At a crucial point in the process in 1992 she stated –

“As Ngāi Tahu and as a Māori I see the Declaration as an international expression of the rights we have through whakapapa and the treaty. As an indigenous woman I see it as the first ever international statement about the minimum human rights standards that apply to Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women and children. From both points of view the Declaration will enable us to claim back the right of self-determination and give our people international reassurance that tino rangatiratanga has a political as well as a cultural meaning”.

(Matike Mai report, at p 60)

How will a Declaration Plan be developed?

In line with the EMRIP advice and *He Puapua*, and to be meaningful and effective, the action plan must be developed within a process that itself honours Te Tiriti and the Declaration, including partnership, tino rangatiratanga and the right of self determination.

In June 2021, Cabinet approved a two-stage process for developing a Declaration Plan consistently with advice in *He Puapua*.

The first stage of the process involves targeted engagement with interested iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori organisations. This stage of engagement is seeking views on the actions that should be included in a draft Declaration Plan, and the process for drafting the plan in partnership.

Engagement with interested groups will take place from **October 2021 – early February 2022**.

A Draft Declaration Plan will be written using that feedback, and further public engagement will take place from **June-October 2022**, to enable whānau, hapū, iwi, organisations and communities to have a say on the Declaration Plan before it is finalised.

Where possible, targeted engagement and the development of a draft Declaration plan will seek a coordinated approach to ensure proposed actions that relate to other Government initiatives (such as Wai 262, RMA and water reforms, eliminating racism and initiatives in the criminal justice sector) align with the aspirations of the Declaration and strengthen rangatiratanga.

The final Declaration Plan will be released in **February 2023**.

Te Puni Kōkiri, the National Iwi Chairs Forum Pou Tikanga and the Human Rights Commission are working together to support this work, aiming to do so in a way that reflects Tiriti partnership.

Further information and updates can be found at: <https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/un-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>

Have your say

To develop a draft Declaration Plan that is grounded in tino rangatiratanga and self-determination, which reflects the needs and advances the rights of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities, we need to hear from you.

What does tino rangatiratanga look like in Aotearoa, and what steps must be taken to strengthen the ability of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori to enjoy and exercise these rights? What concrete steps are needed to uphold Māori rights to equality, participation, culture, lands, territories and resources?

To request a group workshop for your whānau, hapū, iwi or organisation to have your say on the actions to be included in a Draft Declaration Plan, contact: UNDRIP@tpk.govt.nz

Workshops have been designed to enable you to contribute your views to the targeted engagement process by answering these questions:

1. What is our experience with indigenous rights and responsibilities?
2. What are some challenges and opportunities about indigenous rights and responsibilities?
3. What actions should the Government prioritise to strengthen indigenous rights and responsibilities?