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# Te Mana i Waitangi: Human Rights and the Treaty of Waitangi

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

**Tuesday 4 December 2007**





# About the Declaration

- **Adopted by the UN 13 September 2007**
- **Minimum international standards to protect & promote human rights**
- **Important international milestone; recognition of indigenous rights**
- **Indigenous peoples as distinct peoples**
- **Agreement between States**
- **Support of many leaders representing the 370 million indigenous peoples**



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# Everyone has human rights

**Indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples and have all the human rights that everyone has, including:**

**the right to self-determination;**

**the right to be free from discrimination**

**the right to be respected as distinct peoples**

**Collective, as well as individual rights**

# Indigenous Peoples and human rights



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**Historical injustices, including through colonisation & the loss of their lands & resources, have prevented indigenous peoples from fully exercising all of their rights. Therefore there is an urgent need to respect & promote the rights of indigenous peoples**



# Declaration: Full realisation of human rights



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- **Offers assistance to ensure indigenous peoples fully enjoy their rights, & to strengthen the relationship between States & indigenous peoples.**
- **A minimum standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership & mutual respect**

# Universal Human Rights



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- **Entitled to all human rights**
- **Individual & collective rights**
- **Culture, identity & language**
- **Development**





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# Indigenous Rights

- **Self determination, institutions**
- **Culture & traditions**
- **Vision & aspirations**
- **Protection of resources**



# Participation & Non-discrimination



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- **Full participation**
- **Recognition as distinct peoples**
- **Freedom from discrimination**
- **Pursue own economic & social development**







# Political Support

- **Maori & Green Parties Support**
- **Government (Labour, NZ First, Progressive) does not**
- **National, Act & United Future positions are uncertain**



# Indigenous Leaders



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**Broad support for the  
Declaration**

**Involved in the original  
drafting**

**Worked with supportive  
States to move the  
Declaration through the UN  
system**





# Tangata Whenua

- **Active awareness amongst leadership**
- **Little awareness initially**
- **Adoption by some iwi & Maori organisations**
- **ULIN Treaty**





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# Human Rights Commission

- **Welcome the adoption by UN**
- **International measurement for policies**
- **Promote further public discussion**
- **Facilitated Roundtable to look at Declaration & Law**
- **Translation & publication**



# The Declaration & the Treaty of Waitangi



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**Recognition of State  
authority (rights &  
responsibilities)**

**Recognition of Indigenous  
self determination (rights &  
responsibilities)**

**Affirmation of citizenship**





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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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