

Human Rights Policy

Vision

Everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand is equitably included and respected, and feels like they belong.

Values and Principles

Decisions relating to human rights must uphold the following values and principles:

- *Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi*: The rights of tangata whenua, as affirmed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi¹ and set out in our human rights legislation, are recognised as indigenous sovereignty both nationally and internationally, and are critical to the human rights framework of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- *Ecological Wisdom*: Human rights must be balanced with a responsibility to address the rights of the natural world and future generations. Access to a healthy environment is a fundamental human right.
- *Social Responsibility*: Human rights include social, environmental, cultural and economic rights as well as equality, freedom and civil liberties.
- *Appropriate Decision-Making*: Human rights, tikanga Māori and democracy are interwoven: each requires the other for the whole to function well.
- *Non-Violence*: Diversity should be celebrated. Everyone should live free from discrimination on the basis of nationality, ethnic origin, religion, political beliefs, gender, gender identification, sexuality, sex characteristics, marital status, family and reproductive status, age, ability, or socio-economic status.
- *International Cooperation*: Aotearoa New Zealand has a responsibility to use, within our ecological limits, our wealth and privilege to support the human rights of other peoples and nations.

Summary

The Green Party will strengthen our commitment to and action for human rights, and celebrate diversity. We will integrate and implement the rights of tangata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and of all people under international human rights agreements. We will actively combat systemic racism and other forms of oppression that undermine human rights.

Strategic Priorities

The Green Party's strategic goals include:

¹ The rangatiratanga of hapū and iwi, set out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Article 2), is a collective human right protected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"As a Party we strive to create a more connected, compassionate and equal Aotearoa, free from structural biases that discriminate against groups and individuals."

Actions in this policy that will help achieve this include:

- Ensure that our human rights legislation and practices are in accord with our international obligations, including UNDRIP, with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination. (1.1)
- Amend all human rights legislation to ensure it upholds the rights of tangata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and that the Government is bound by and held accountable to such legislation. (1.2)
- Support and resource the Human Rights Commission to implement human rights legislation and counter prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. (2.1)

Connected Policies

All Green Party policies apply the concept of human rights, including upholding the right of tangata whenua under [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#). Our [Workforce](#) Policy upholds the rights of workers. Our [Immigration](#) Policy upholds the rights of refugees and migrants. Our [Justice](#) Policy upholds the rights of detainees. Our [Disability](#) policy upholds the rights of disabled people. Other policies uphold the rights of [Children](#), [Women](#), the [Rainbow](#) community, and [Tagata Moana](#). Our policy treats access to [Housing](#) and [Health](#) as human rights, and upholds the right to a healthy environment through [Environmental Protection](#).

Policy Positions

1. [A Strong Commitment to Human Rights](#)

Issues

Aotearoa New Zealand has not fully incorporated the full range of international human rights agreements into national legislation. Social, cultural and economic rights have not been as thoroughly established and implemented in this country as our civil and political rights.

Actions

- 1.1. Ensure that our human rights legislation and practices are in accord with our international obligations, including UNDRIP, with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination.
- 1.2. Amend all human rights legislation to ensure it upholds the rights of tangata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and that the Government is bound by and held accountable to such legislation.
- 1.3. Assess the extent of discrimination and the status of human rights in Aotearoa New Zealand and publicly report on how any gaps will be addressed.
- 1.4. Review and implement the New Zealand Action Plan on Human Rights.
- 1.5. Prohibit hate speech on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics.

- 1.6. Amend the Human Rights Act to clarify that all forms of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics are prohibited grounds of discrimination and develop guidance and training on these responsibilities.
- 1.7. Develop a coordinated framework for human rights education and community education to empower people to understand their citizenship and human rights and the relationship between Te Tiriti o Waitangi and human rights.
- 1.8. Ensure Aotearoa New Zealand's work with other countries and overseas organisations supports international recognition of the widespread and interconnected impact of global challenges, including human rights challenges, and support urgent cooperation among all state and non-state actors to address them and their systemic causes (see our [Global Affairs](#) Policy).

2. Diversity and Systemic Racism

Issues

Too many New Zealanders still suffer from the impacts of intolerance and systemic oppression, including racism, sexism, ableism and ageism. Concerns have been consistently raised relating to structural inequalities and disadvantage, and the rights of Māori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi have not been fully recognised in law or practice.

Actions

- 2.1. Support and resource the Human Rights Commission to implement human rights legislation and counter prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.
- 2.2. Uphold the tino rangatiratanga of Māori and the rights of Māori to equity and wellbeing in legislation, policies and practice (see our [Tiriti o Waitangi](#) Policy).
- 2.3. Support the work of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and ensure it is adequately funded to promote tolerance and enhance Pasifika diversity in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 2.4. Work with ethnic communities to combat prejudice; develop fair, compassionate, and effective immigration and migrant settlement processes; and ensure that education, health and other institutions meet the special requirements of ethnic communities and actively combat structural and institutional racism.
- 2.5. Support and enhance the work of ethnic associations in helping migrants maintain their languages and cultures, and in celebrating the vibrant ethnic cultures that enrich Aotearoa New Zealand society.
- 2.6. Ensure that all schools and early childhood services celebrate diversity and support the identification and elimination of prejudice and racism (see our [Education](#) Policy).