

Questions and Answers

Question 44 – “Why should we do anything now?”

Breaches of the Treaty have almost always ensured that non-Māori benefit and that Māori have been denied access to resources of all kinds. Almost no institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand operate on Māori tikanga, cultural values, language or world views. Access to services for Māori usually requires them to relate to mono cultural processes. This benefits people who belong to the dominant culture, and penalises those who do not. The problems won't disappear. If we don't deal with them, the next generation will have to, or the next. Mahatma Ghandi once said:

"The best test of a civilised society is the way in which it treats its most vulnerable and weakest members".

Non-Māori must take responsibility for challenging breaches of the Treaty, and in certain circumstances support Māori in their work towards independent political, social and economic institutions, primarily by tackling non-Māori obstacles such as inappropriate legislation, racist funding frameworks, or policies. Some Tauīwi are also questioning the efficacy of our mono cultural institutions, for example the prison system. They wonder if Māori restorative justice practices may produce better outcomes, not only for Māori but for everyone. Māori instigated Family Group Conferences, for example, work well for Tangata Tiriti too.

Concern for sustainability in environmental management has led to tangata tiriti understanding that decisions that include Māori and therefore indigenous values based on the rights of nature are more likely to result in ecosystem protection.

Question 45 – “Doesn't the treaty make everything complicated and take up too much time?”

Change can be difficult and the processes take time to work through. but the benefits of having a fair, just, inclusive and more equal society include harmonious relationships and cost effective and equitable distribution of resources. Unequal societies have higher negative social statistics for both the privileged and the poor in those societies, and in New Zealand the largely race-based gap has been growing for the past 30 years. Māori disadvantage is an ongoing opportunity cost to the nation as a whole. In fact, many long term solutions ultimately create a much more efficient use of time, money and energy. Organisations that have addressed the Treaty in their structures and policies clearly show positive results.

Where Māori have been resourced to be able to put their own systems in place, Tauīwi benefit from being a part of an organisation that respects and respects our country's dual cultural heritage. The process also makes it easier for ethnic groups other than Pakeha to make further changes to institutions that will benefit their own members.

source: <https://nwo.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/QandA.pdf>



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We have a page where you can make a donation to the Lower Hutt Womens Centre. Please help us to help women To find us go to the givealittle website and search for Lower Hutt Womens Centre

Donations

We welcome donations of:
Clean women's and children's clothes
Books and toys
Small household items

Drop off items to the Women's Centre.

Note: We cannot accept any large items such as furniture.

Lower Hutt Women's Centre Philosophy

The Women's Centre:

1. recognises and works in the spirit of the Tiriti O Waitangi
2. confronts women's oppression and empowers women to take control of their own lives
3. opposes discrimination by those who have power against those who do not. This includes discrimination against women who identify and live as women, including Māori women, Pacific Island women, women of colour, lesbians, transwomen, those who are differently abled, young, old, working class and those with different spiritual beliefs
4. promotes a safe supportive environment for all women and children
5. promotes the sharing of power and resources

Contribute to Cronecle

We welcome your input into the next edition of Cronecle—due out in December 2022.

If you have articles, ideas for articles, drawings you've done, or services please email your ideas to: info@lhwc.org.nz

The Women's Centre reserves the right to withhold publication of information which conflicts with the Centre's philosophy.

Thanks to all the women who helped out with this edition, and to the women who donate graphics to Isis International Manilla.

Become a Member

Benefits

As a member of the Women's Centre you get free access to our library and can borrow books for up to a month. You also get sent a colour copy of our quarterly newsletter – by post or email.

Annual cost

- Waged: \$27
- Low or unwaged: \$15
- Teenager: \$10
- Child: \$5

Payment

Cash: Pay at the Women's Centre
Online banking: Account number 03-0531-0528525-03
Reference: your name and 'join'.

Your fees go towards the running and ongoing maintenance of the Women's Centre.

We thank you for your support. Join us!