

Human Rights Policy

Vision

The Green Party envisions an Aotearoa New Zealand where we are:

- A model of tolerance, democracy and inclusiveness.
- A good international citizen that accepts international responsibilities to welcome all new migrants, treat them well, and help them settle into our society.
- All enjoying a standard of living that enables everyone to feel a sense of participation in and belonging to the community.
- Living free from discrimination¹ on the basis of nationality, ethnic origin, religion, political beliefs, gender, gender identification, sexuality, marital status, family and reproductive status, age, disability, or socio-economic background.

See also our [Education](#), [Housing and Sustainable Development](#), [Women's](#), [Rainbow](#), [Income Support](#), [Economic](#), and [Trade and Foreign Investment](#) policies.

Key Principles

1. Aotearoa New Zealand has an international responsibility to help to achieve a free and just world, without discrimination or inequities between nations and ethnic groups.
2. Human rights include social, environmental, cultural and economic rights as well as equality, freedom and civil liberties.
3. Critical to the human rights framework in Aotearoa New Zealand is the implementation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the recognition of Māori as tangata

¹ *Discrimination* means the provision of civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights, including the public or private provision of employment, housing, goods, services or facilities, to any person or group of persons under less favourable conditions than are generally provided to other members of the community. Affirmative action programmes assist or advance persons or groups of persons to achieve equality with other members of the community.

whenua of this land. The rangatiratanga of mana whenua, set out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Article 2), is a collective human right protected in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

4. Ethnic diversity will be celebrated and acceptance and understanding of all ethnicities should be promoted in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Specific Policy Points

1. Strengthening our commitment to human rights in Aotearoa New Zealand

Policy Positions

- 1.1 Amend all human rights legislation to ensure that the government is bound by such legislation.
- 1.2 Review the exceptions in the Human Rights Act to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability.
- 1.3 Develop a set of indicators for assessing the extent of discrimination and the status of human rights.
- 1.4 Require that the Human Rights Commission monitor complaints to determine the nature and extent of discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 1.5 Develop a coordinated framework for human rights education and community education to empower people, including migrants, to understand their citizenship and human rights and the relationship between Te Tiriti o Waitangi and human rights.
- 1.6 Resource the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Commissioner for Children to fulfil their mandate.
- 1.7 Ensure that our human rights legislation and practices are in accord with our international obligations with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination.
- 1.8 Work with the Human Rights Commission to complete the implementation of the New Zealand Action Plan on Human Rights.

2. Aotearoa New Zealand as a good international citizen

We have a responsibility to be a good international citizen who uses, within our ecological limits, our wealth and opportunities to support the human rights of other peoples and nations. The Green Party is committed to ensuring 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. Aotearoa New Zealand should work proactively with overseas and international organisations, including indigenous peoples, civil society organisations and the private sector, to build a positive, collective response to human rights challenges. See our [Global Affairs](#) policy for details.

3. Promoting Tolerance and Celebrating Ethnic Diversity in Aotearoa New Zealand

The Greens believe government should do as much as it can to combat intolerance based on ethnicity and religion and the systemic issues that it causes and encourage celebration of diversity.

Policy Positions

- 3.1 Fully support the Human Rights Commission in their implementation of the Human Rights Act, countering prejudice and discrimination, and addressing racism.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Establish a stand-alone Ministry of Ethnic Communities, as called for by ethnic associations, in line with the Minister of Ethnic Communities.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Support 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.
- 3.6 Enhance the work of ethnic associations and councils through partnership arrangements, promotion, and financial assistance for their projects, whether they are specific to the ethnic group or are multi-cultural projects.
- 3.7 Integrate the work of ethnic associations into the educational sector to promote tolerance in the wider community.
- 3.8 Provide all new immigrants with a copy of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act and Te Tiriti o Waitangi in their preferred language (see our [Immigration](#) policy).

4. Aotearoa New Zealand's responsibility towards migrants

The approval processes for all migrants (temporary or permanent, and whether they arrived legally or illegally) should be fair, transparent, and subject to the normal rules of evidence, with full judicial appeal rights. See our [Immigration](#) policy for more details.