



Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga

A new approach to building power

What we are

Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga is an emerging broad-based alliance of secular community organisations, faith-based religious groups and unions grounded in the teachings of Saul Alinsky and developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation.

Who we are

We have currently many diverse sponsoring organisations formally committed to a future alliance. Founding sponsors are: Pacific Women's Watch, E tū, Salvation Army, Maori Women's Welfare League, and Sisters of Mercy Wiri.

Why we matter

Our existing member organisations represent tens of thousands of New Zealanders seeking the unity and power of working together in common cause. We run workshops,

training events and research groups to develop and inspire our leaders to campaign and win a more just society for all.



Our philosophy

A healthy democracy needs a balance between the power of communities in civil society, government and the market - but we know our society is out of balance and people are suffering. Te Ohu is an emerging grassroots alliance that aims to give voice and recognition to our communities for a better Aotearoa for our whanau and tamariki.

A model of broad-based organising

Broad-based organising builds power across the diverse groups of civil society whether they are community, union or faith-based. The relational organising methodology has been practiced by alliances of the Industrial Areas Foundation for more than 80 years from the US to London, from Canada to Australia, and beyond. Broad-based organising has inspired leaders to organise people around the systemic causes of poverty, transforming the lives of citizens across the world, and restoring voice and influence to communities.

Our name; our values

Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga's name was gifted to us by the Maori Women's Welfare League bringing together 5 key principles.

Mahitahi - Working together for the common good

Tautoko - Support

Awahi - Embrace, assist

Manaakitanga - Care, dignity

Utu - Reciprocity

Aroha - Love

Our vision

- Strengthen community cohesion for better outcomes
- Allow sponsor organisations to use the alliance's infrastructure to work together rather than compete for limited resources
- Develop comprehensive plans for systemic change
- Provide a platform that collects grassroots

How we are getting there

We're investing in unlocking the potential of current and future leaders through education and action.

We're facilitating new relationships between the diverse civil society organisations that together can organise to win around issues that support Aucklanders to live decent lives.

We're enabling a collaborative approach to research that ensures an evidence-based understanding of the pressing issues of our communities as we create a programme of work for the future alliance.

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