

He Muka Tāngata - He Mana Wāhine

He Muka Tāngata, He Mana Wāhine: An online gathering, weaving together the voices of indigenous women with the support of the International Indigenous Women's Forum and Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko i Te Ora.

Powerful commentary was shared from across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, the Pacific Ocean, from Hawai'i, Canada to Peru, traversing the Pacific Islands to Australia and Aotearoa, New Zealand. Online attendees shared their questions, comments and connected in kinship as sisters, mothers, relatives and friends.

Statement 1 - We stand in SOLIDARITY as Indigenous women

Indigenous women stand in solidarity to continue to improve the livelihoods of indigenous women and girls, their children and future generations yet to be born.

Our mana is eminent. We have not vanished, we have not given up, we are the ultimate voice for human rights. There is prestige and inherent power in women.

Global connections with other indigenous women and recreating kinship links is essential. Reducing harm to future indigenous generations is paramount.

Statement 2 - Our PRIORITIES require demonstrated actions to prevent further harm to indigenous women, their children and families

We assert that the priorities for indigenous women are complementary irrespective of location; we have collective rights as indigenous peoples, as well as individual rights as indigenous women and girls. These priorities include:

- Basic human rights in housing, food, clean water, education
- Climate crisis and mitigation according to the needs of our Earth Mother and all our relations in the natural world
- Access to public services e.g. childcare, transport, safety and justice
- Halt gender violence against indigenous women and their children
- Economic justice i.e. the right to work, equitable distribution of resources and reduce harms caused by economic colonisation

Ancestral treasures, tangible and intangible, central to the wellbeing of indigenous peoples are preserved with knowledge held by indigenous women. Indigenous women need to be able to contribute this knowledge across all sectors at all levels: leading, participating in decision-making, and implementing solutions using their indigenous genius.

Statement 3 - ACTIVATION and ADVOCACY as the basis for COURAGEOUS DISRUPTION

We assert that activation and advocacy in local contexts will create space for courageous disruptive discussions; igniting the curiosity and imagination of indigenous women as intergenerational actors locally and globally.

- Rebuilding alternatives to capitalism e.g. healing through home ownership
- Recentring initiatives to remove exclusions for indigenous women and their children
- Reconnection to land through spoken word
- Connection via kinship links to moana peoples
- Recognition of kinship links (key to the practice of self-determination) via legal and regulatory frameworks

Indigenous knowledge is woven into every piece of art, every prayer/incantation, every fibre of flax from which He Muka Tāngata is derived.