

30 Priority Areas

for action on Human Rights in New Zealand

SECTION ONE – GENERAL

International Human Rights Framework	Parliament	1	Strengthening Parliament's human-rights responsibilities by establishing a Human Rights Select Committee and tabling human-rights reports in Parliament
	Civil society	2	Establishing a fund to support civil-society participation in international human-rights mechanisms
Equality and Freedom from Discrimination	Substantive equality	3	Incorporating a specific reference to equality in the Bill of Rights Act and the Human Rights Act
Human Rights and the Treaty of Waitangi	Pathways to partnership	4	Developing and implementing new pathways to partnership between Tangata Whenua and the Crown
	Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	5	Promoting awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in New Zealand
Human Rights and Race Relations	Structural discrimination	6	Investigating the extent to which structural discrimination underlies entrenched racial inequalities, and developing programmes to address it
	Languages	7	Developing and implementing a national languages policy

SECTION TWO – CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Democratic Rights	Representation	8	Increasing the representation of Māori, Pacific and other ethnic groups in local government
Right to Justice	Evidence from vulnerable people	9	Developing more appropriate methods for taking and recording of evidence from vulnerable victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings
Life, Liberty and Security of Person	Programme of action	10	Implementing in partnership with civil society a comprehensive strategy and programme of action to address the drivers of crime
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	Section 61, Human Rights Act 1993	11	Reviewing section 61 of the Human Rights Act to ensure it fulfils its legislative purpose
	Human rights and the Internet	12	Promoting debate about access to the internet as a human right and a Charter of Internet Rights
Freedom of Religion and Belief	Guidelines	13	Developing guidelines for respecting diversity of religion and belief in specific contexts

SECTION THREE – ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Right to Health	Capacity	14	Amending the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 to better reflect the concept of capacity in line with international standards
Right to Education	Human Rights values	15	Implementing the human rights values explicit in the New Zealand curriculum, Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and Te Whāriki, to ensure that early childhood services and schools respect diversity, are free from violence and enable full participation by children and young people
Right to Work	Equal Employment Opportunities framework	16	Implementing a new framework for equal employment opportunities that addresses access to decent work for disadvantaged groups such as Māori, Pacific youth and disabled people
Right to Housing	Homelessness	17	Developing and implementing regional and national strategies to reduce homelessness
	Social housing provision	18	Increasing the supply and diversity of social housing
Right to Social Security	Poverty Reduction	19	Reducing child poverty through a co-ordinated and integrated approach, with specific attention to Māori, Pacific and disabled children
	Adequacy of core benefits	20	Reviewing and addressing the adequacy of core benefit rates

SECTION FOUR – RIGHTS OF SPECIFIC GROUPS

Rights of Children and Young People	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child obligations	21	Ensuring that legislation reflects New Zealand's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including recognising the interests of the child, the age of criminal responsibility, protection under the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act, age discrimination protections and adoption procedures
	Participation	22	Increasing avenues for children to participate and have their views heard
Rights of Disabled People	Measuring outcomes	23	Developing a full range of social statistics to ensure that key outcomes for disabled people are measured
	Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	24	Ensuring an integrated and co-ordinated government response to implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the full participation of disabled people
Rights of Women	Pay and employment equity	25	Timetabling pay and employment-equity implementation with a minimum target of halving the gender pay gap by 2014 and eliminating it by 2020
	Sexual and family violence	26	Reducing sexual and family violence through target-setting and fully resourcing a national programme of action
Rights of Sexual and Gender Minorities	Legal equality	27	Completing the legislative steps needed for formal legal equality, including rights to found and form a family, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity
Rights of Migrants	Employment	28	Addressing barriers to the employment of migrants, and ensuring that the rights of temporary, seasonal and rural workers and those on work-to-residence visas are respected
Rights of Refugees	Comprehensive strategy	29	Completing a comprehensive whole-of-government resettlement strategy for convention refugees, quota refugees and family reunification
Rights of People Who Are Detained	Māori imprisonment	30	Committing to specific targets and timelines for reducing the disproportionate number of Māori in prison