



arc is a national network committed to a sustainable and just future based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi.<sup>1</sup>

arc provides support, a contact point and a sense of community nationally and locally for young people committed to this vision.

We are an active network with Tauwiwi,<sup>2</sup> Pākehā<sup>3</sup> and tangata whenua<sup>4</sup> members throughout the country. We operate both collectively and within our own cultural spaces.

We do this through dialogue, education, relationship building, and a commitment to our own learning. We run events, workshops, hold hui and gatherings, do postering, hold stalls and create resources (stickers, posters, t-shirts, pamphlets).

#### **arc supports tino rangatiratanga**

Tino rangatiratanga can be understood as self determination, independence and sovereignty. Tino rangatiratanga of Maori was affirmed in both the 1835 Declaration of Independence and the 1840 Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Maori text of the treaty, guaranteed tangata whenua would keep their independence and maintain control over their lands and everything of importance to them. This is the text of the Treaty that was signed by the British Crown and over 500 Maori leaders and has primacy according to International Law. Te Tiriti o Waitangi affirms Maori sovereignty and Maori never ceded or signed this away.

Te Tiriti will be honoured once Maori have full exercise of their tino rangatiratanga.

#### **Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a peace and justice issue.**

The institutions of our society, such as the legal, health, political and education systems were set up by Pākehā using models suited to Pakeha culture and therefore they generally benefit Pākehā more than other cultures in Aotearoa. As young people living in Aotearoa we don't want to perpetuate the current racist and unjust structures. We work towards a more peaceful society by learning about our history and challenging injustice.

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<sup>1</sup> the Maori language text of the Treaty

<sup>2</sup> used here to refer to non-Maori

<sup>3</sup> used here to refer to New Zealanders of European ancestry

<sup>4</sup> used here to mean the indigenous Maori people of Aotearoa

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi has value for all peoples of Aotearoa.**

People often think of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a Maori issue however we feel it is equally important for Pākehā and Tauīwi. The Treaty negotiated the right for Pākehā and Tauīwi to live in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. It gives Pākehā and Tauīwi a place to stand in this country therefore it is as relevant today as when it was signed.

### **Knowing our histories**

Our education system fails to fully inform us about our own histories, whether that is the history of Pākehā colonisers, Tauīwi immigrants or tangata whenua as the indigenous people. arc believes this lack of information creates misunderstanding between the peoples of this country. To move forward we need to acknowledge the past, understand the history of all peoples of Aotearoa and take responsibility for the present.

### **A future based on Te Tiriti Waitangi .**

A society based on injustice, is not sustainable.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the basis of a just future for Aotearoa/ New Zealand. It envisions the way in which peoples of different worldviews and cultures can live together in one land. It outlines a relationship based on the sharing of power. We can start living this future now.

### **If you want to learn more**

Check the following websites:

[http://geocities.com/arc\\_aotearoa](http://geocities.com/arc_aotearoa)

<http://aotearoa.wellington.net.nz>

<http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/indig.htm>

<http://aotearoa.wellington.nz.nz/back/project.htm>

[http://www.arena.org.nz/tino\\_rangatiratanga.htm](http://www.arena.org.nz/tino_rangatiratanga.htm)

There are lots of books on the Treaty such as Robert Considine's *Healing our History* or Claudia Orange's *The Story of The Treaty*, Ranganui Walker's *Ka Whawhai Tonu Matou: Struggle Without End*.

Workshops create a relaxed and open forum for discussion and can give you a good overview of the issues. arc regularly offers workshops, that you can attend for free. For details of treaty workshops in your area please contact your local arc group.

### **contacts**

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