

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

A workshop on this topic was held recently at the Auckland Peoples Centre as part of the series entitled Economic Development Training run by the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre.

The workshop produced some interesting ideas about how Pakeha could start to prepare to dialogue with Maori about possible options for Constitutional Reform that would honour Te Tino Rangatiratanga. We called this - 'Getting ready to negotiate.'

THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE EXPLORED IN THE SESSION:

- * The unhelpful ways in which we live - including ways in which we are individualistic, selfish and dominating;
- * The groups in which we participate, acknowledging their present limited ability to honour Te Tino Rangatiratanga;
- * Re-claiming the healthy communal aspects of our cultural traditions as Pakeha, including the promotion of healthy newer models of being.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE AREAS OF FURTHER WORK THAT WE IDENTIFIED:

- * Working on our emotional selves - working through fears and anxieties of letting go power, and the defining of others who are different to us;
- * Linking up with organisations who are coming up with possible models of Treaty based structural change;
- * Supporting Maori organisations as they challenge the Courts and similar institutions about the need for the Crown to honour Te Tino Rangatiratanga;
- * Working with similarly committed people on specific issues such as economic globalisation;
- * Working creatively with the Media.

Overall, we realised the need to make and take opportunities to lobby for a Constitutional Conference, possibly of several years duration, with processes and resources that are affirmed by Te Iwi Maori. The lobbying of Members of Parliament will need to be part of this.

Many of these topics will be explored further at the 7th Gathering of Anti-Racism Workers early February 1995. Further details about this gathering are available from:

Network Waitangi

P O Box 5098

Whangarei

For further information about the need for Constitutional change, and possibility of workshops, contact:

Jean Brookes (09) 5254179

Joan McDonald (09) 3789816