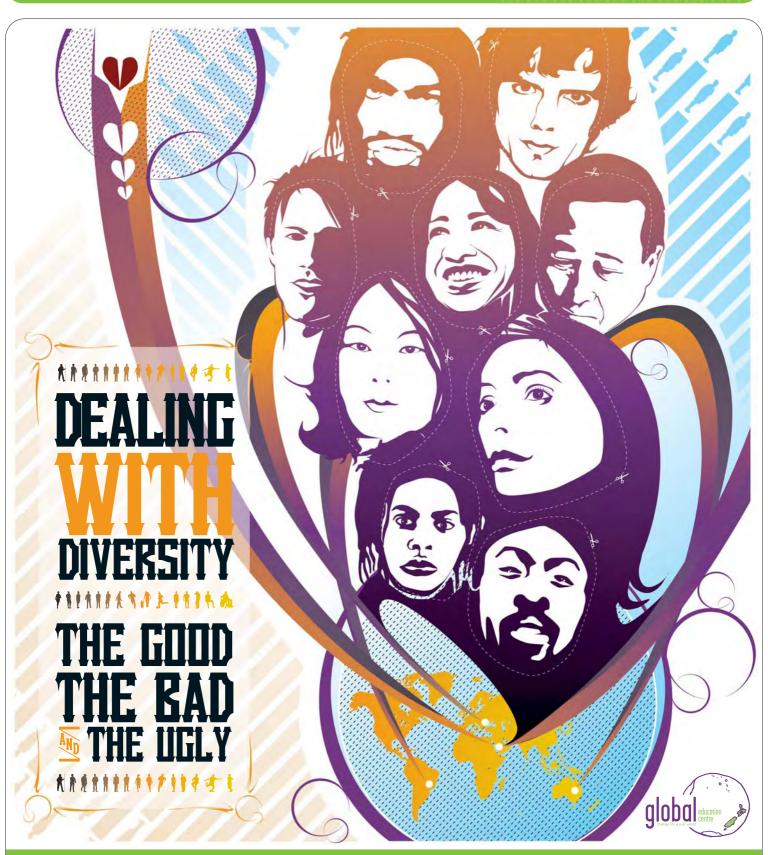
GLOBAL ISSUES 13

March



Dealing with diversity

GROUPS

Walking down the street in Aotearoa New Zealand you can see people of many different ethnicities sharing the footpaths - Māori, Pākehā, Samoan, Korean, Somalian, Argentinian, Greek ... and many others! We're very lucky to live in a country where we can all learn from one another and live together in relative peace. But often – now and in the past, in Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas – people have seen ethnic or racial difference as undesirable. This view of the unknown can lead to stereotypes about things like honesty, work ethic, morality and intelligence.

In turn this can result in bullying, name calling, discrimination and to murder and war. Sometimes governments even create laws and policies that discriminate against people because of the colour of their skin and try to eliminate the right to choice that these people have, such as where to work or live. Why do these kinds of situations arise? What can you do to ensure that positive relationships are maintained between you and people of other racial or ethnic groups? This Global Issues explores these questions and more.



















GLOBAL ISSUES

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Celebrating positive race relations DEFINITIONS



Each year *Race* Relations Day is celebrated on 21 March. This recognises the importance of human rights,

particularly related to racism. But what is the significance of 21 March?

In Sharpeville, South Africa, on 21 March 1960 a group of around five thousand black people peacefully walked to the Sharpeville Police Station to hand back their "passes". They disagreed with the discriminatory "pass laws" which required only black men and women to carry reference books when travelling away from their homes. When the group reached the police station the police opened fire without warning. The unarmed crowd dispersed but the police continued to fire into the crowd. Sixty-nine people lay dead and over 200 people sustained injuries. Most of the people were shot in their back. "Sharpeville" came to signify an event of extreme racial prejudice: a date, not a place.

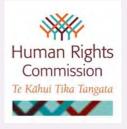
In response to the international outrage that followed, in 1965 the United Nations adopted the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for individual countries to ratify (see http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d icerd.htm). CERD recognises that in situations where intolerance. discrimination, humiliation and lack of dignity arise, human rights violations can occur. Human rights breaches were, therefore, at odds with living in a culturally diverse and humane society. In implementing the CERD, countries were urged to develop laws in their own countries to address racism at institutional and societal levels. In 1966 the United Nations General Assembly declared that 21 March would be the *International Day*

for the Elimination of Racism for all countries to observe and promote measures to eliminate *racism*

In 1966 Aotearoa New Zealand signed the convention. On 21 March we celebrate Race Relations Day to acknowledge our *diversity*. This includes recognising the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua in our country, acknowledging our Pacific context, and celebrating our old and new historical connections with the world. Race Relations Day is a good opportunity for reflection and dialogue on how we strengthen diversity and advocate for human rights. Importantly, this is not about a day or a month, it is about every day of the year.

Kia kaha. Te ranga tahi – together we grow.





Written by Desigin Thulkanam, Human Rights Commission Te Kähui Tika Tangata

KEY WORDS FOR THIS ISSUE (Glossary on Page 8)

RACE:

is based on the idea that people can be divided into groups based on physical features such as skin colour, and other inherited visible traits. Race does not exist in a biological sense.

ETHNICITY:

defined by a shared culture, language, and historical background.

CULTURE:

the customs, institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or group.

RACISM:

discrimination based on race or ethnicity which has the purpose or effect of damaging the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, of human rights and freedoms.

STEREOTYPE:

a characteristic or trait that is attributed to an entire group of people.

What's the story with Aotearoa New Zealand?

People from all over the world have joined Māori to make Aotearoa New Zealand the ethnically diverse country it is today.

Where did Aotearoa New Zealand's tangata whenua, indigenous people, come from?

Māori oral tradition describes how Kupe's discovery of Aotearoa New Zealand led to the settlement of this country by the ancestors of Māori who sailed here in seven great waka (sailing canoes) from Hawaiiki.

History as written by Aotearoa New Zealand's Pākehā settlers describes this country as being settled between AD 1000 and 1200 by people from eastern Polynesia. These people are now known as Māori.

Colonisation

The first European to sight Aotearoa New Zealand was Dutch explorer Abel Tasman. Tasman never actually set foot on land and it was the British who eventually colonised Aotearoa New Zealand in the 1800s. British settlers came to Aotearoa New

Zealand in their hundreds of thousands. Among others, numerous Polish, Dutch, French, Chinese, and Dalmatian settlers also made the perilous sea voyage to this country.



Polish refugee children at Pahiatua, 1940's

The Grass is Greener on this side

So why do so many people travel from the other side of the world to come to a country far away from everything they know?

Migrants choose to leave their home country for a better life elsewhere. They think they might find jobs (or better jobs), a healthier lifestyle, a cleaner environment, or a safer place to bring up their children. Others come to join family or friends that moved here earlier. The reasons people migrate to Aotearoa New Zealand are as varied as the people themselves.

Refugees have escaped religious, racial, political or social persecution. They have been forced to leave their home country because life was made too difficult or dangerous for them. In 1944, 733 Polish children and 108 adults arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand from war-torn Europe. They were the first major group of refugees to arrive here. Today, thousands of refugees from all over the world help contribute to the increasingly multiethnic make-up of our society. Actually, people came to Aotearoa New Zealand 150 years ago for many of the same reasons that people come here today!

Trouble in Paradise



Paul Holmes

Paul Holmes

Kofi Annan

September 24, 2003 "That Kofi Annan, I've got to say to you, has been a very cheeky darkie overnight. He's been a very cheeky darkie. It's all very well giving a darkie that secretary-general job but we'll only take so much We're not going to be told how to live our lives by a Ghanaian."

Paul Holmes, on Newstalk ZB.

Many people protested about Paul Holmes' remarks concerning United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, through official channels and in the media. Most media commentators also expressed outrage at Holmes' comments. Paul Holmes' racist comments were reported throughout the world and many New Zealanders felt deeply ashamed as a result.

One positive result of this negative event is that the public's response made it clear that racism is unacceptable in Aotearoa New Zealand.

August 6, 2004 More than 90 Jewish graves at a Wellington cemetery are vandalised.

"It is repugnant that a disturbed individual or group is targeting sites of particular historic and emotional significance to the Wellington Jewish community. This goes way beyond intolerance: this is persecution."

Keith Locke, Green Party.

Sign Here...

利力原作并作作中户自身中方 · 专中自自作并在大方的 · 本自作了电 · 概

For many different reasons, treaties have often been agreed to between different peoples living in the same country. Treaties are most often signed because they protect rights, and legitimise colonisation, foreign rule, and land purchase. Even so, people often find that things that have been agreed to in treaties are ignored, that they have to fight to have their rights honoured by the other group, or that the treaty itself was flawed.

Our Treaty

Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Treaty of Waitangi, is an agreement drawn up between the Crown and representatives of Māori iwi and hapū and signed on 6 February 1840 by Captain William Hobson, several English residents and approximately forty-five Māori chiefs. The Treaty was then taken to other parts of the country so that more Māori chiefs could sign. Eventually, over 500 chiefs – including some women

However the Treaty was not taken to all parts of the country and some chiefs refused to sign.

As there are two main versions of the Treaty, one written in English, another in te reo Māori, there is dispute surrounding what was actually agreed to by the signatories. In addition, as the Treaty was not signed or agreed to by all Māori chiefs, there are some people who believe it is invalid. Furthermore, some promises made in the Treaty have not been honoured, leading to grievances. In 1975 the Treaty of Waitangi Act was passed, establishing the Waitangi Tribunal, the sole purpose of which is to investigate Treaty grievances held by Māori against the Crown.

The Government, Māori iwi, and the Waitangi Tribunal are now trying to put right the wrongs that have happened as a result of Treaty promises being broken. They are trying to build a better future for Māori and trying to create better understanding between Maori and Pākehā.

WHAT ABOUT THE RESTORMENT 'Let us all remember that the Treaty was signed so that we could all live as one nation in Aotearoa'.



Ethiopia and Eritrea: In 1990, these two countries signed a peace agreement after a 2 year border dispute that left 100,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

Canada: In a 1999 treaty, the indigenous Nisga'a people of western Canada were given 2000km of land, a share of the salmon stocks, and selfgovernment in return for giving up their tax-exempt status, and all rights to future land claims

> USA: 371 treaties were signed between the Native American Indians and the American colonial government up to 1871. Many legal challenges have followed.

Australia: No treaties were signed

Australian Aborigines when in the

1700s the British started colonising

Australia. Today a treaty process

Australian government has been

started as a way of recognising the

between the British and the

between Aborigines and the

important position Aborigines occupy as the indigenous people

of that country.

reaty of Friendship and Cooperation was signed in 1994 in an attempt to quell ethnic conflict in the region.

China and Japan: The Treaty of Shimonoseki, 5, marked the end of the first Sino-Japanese War, gave Korea independence from China, and ceded Taiwan to lapan.

Useful Resources

Dee Brown, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee – An Indian History of the American West, Vintage, London, 1991.

Lotte Hughes, The No-Nonsense Guide to Indigenous Peoples, New Internationalist Publications Ltd, UK, 2003.

Claudia Orange, An Illustrated History of the Treaty of Waitangi, Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2004.

www.globaled.org.nz/schools/pdfs/Global_Issueso5.pdf to read the Global Issues about "Calming Conflict"

Sources: www.waitangi-tribunal.govt.nz, www.archives.govt.nz, www.encyclopedia.com, www.ppu.org.uk

Fighting it out



Conflicts are regularly presented by the media as being about one thing – whether it's ethnic difference, religion, border disputes, or division of resources.

However, the reality is much more complicated and ethnic conflict is often due to a number of reasons.

RWANDA

For a long time Rwandans lived in the same villages with no divisions based on *ethnicity*. But then in 1916 the Belgian *colonial* government grouped the Rwandan people into Hutu, Tutsi and Twa and gave everyone identity cards which stated the new *ethnicity* of the holder. Then for the next 20 years the colonial government gave the Tutsi better treatment than the Hutu – including better jobs and education. As a result, in 1959 the Hutu rose up in a series of riots demanding equal rights. More than 20,000 Tutsi were killed, and many more

fled to neighbouring countries.

In 1962, the Hutu took Belgium's place in government. The Hutu government used the media and schools to instruct the Hutu people that the Tutsi weren't real Rwandans. They also trained a Hutu militia to use against Tutsi.

Finally, in 1994 the Hutu *militia* was mobilised against the Tutsi. Over the next 100 days, up to 10,000 Tutsi were killed each day by Hutu *militia* armed with *machetes*, clubs, guns and grenades. Because everyone in Rwanda carried

identity documents, it was very easy to discover who was Tutsi and who was Hutu; who would live and who would die. Neighbours killed neighbours, husbands killed wives, and friends killed each other.

It has been more than 10 years since the *genocide* in Rwanda and much is still being done to work towards a united society based on ethnic harmony. Today, Rwanda's President, Paul Kagame, defines himself as neither Hutu, nor Tutsi, nor Twa, but emphasises the importance of being Rwandan.

LUWI BUCHIKE IS A REFUGEE FROM THE CONFLICT IN RWANDA.

WHAT DO YOU THINK NEW ZEALANDERS CAN LEARN FROM THE CONFLICT IN RWANDA?



"The concept of tolerance. People need to understand that they should tolerate each other regardless of whatever differences they may think they have.

Racist things should not be put in the media. The media is a very dangerous weapon to use because if you keep saying, "So and so is bad, so and so is bad ..." it creates that kind of tension which might explode into a situation like in Rwanda.

Forgiveness is very important. I think Rwanda should be a very good example. People killed each other but eventually they said we should forgive each other because

if we say we're going to kill everybody that killed somebody then everyone is dead!

I think the world will come to learn that we are different but we can coexist. That's very important because you can't change what you are."



What do you think?



The nation state of Israel was created in 1948, resulting in two separate homelands for the Palestinian and Jewish people. This land division has led to ongoing conflict

between and among many Palestinians and Israelis ever since. **Investigate why.**

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE



- 1. What is the history of the land where Israel and Palestine are situated?
- 2. Why was it considered necessary, and by whom, for Israel to be created?
- 3. What is the history of the Gaza Strip?
- 4. Compare the USA and Egypt's position on Israel. Give reasons for the stances.
- 5. What is the Intifada?
- 6. What is the Oslo Agreement?
- 7. What is a suicide bomber? What are suicide bombers trying to achieve?

- 8. Research the wall that is being built by Israel in the West Bank. What is your opinion about this?
- 9. What is the Road Map to Peace?
- 10. What is the status of Palestine as a state?
- 11. What is happening in Israel and Palestine today?
- 12. Visit http://nswas.com a website about Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam, a village in Israel where Jews and Palestinians of Israeli citizenship live together in peace.
- 13. What do you think is the solution to the conflict in Israel and Palestine?

Useful resources: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/iltoc.html, and www.batshalom.org/english/jlink/index.html, Darke, D & Rustin, B (eds), Dealing With Conflict, The Ebor Press, England, 1999. Sources: http://frontline.worldvision.org.nz, www.historyplace.com, and http://www.ibe.unesco.org/





It was established to define the governing capacity and ownership of land that each of the two groups held.

2. In what ways has ethnic diversity made your life richer?

Asha: Because I can meet many people from different cultures and I can understand them. In Somalia there is only one ethnicity but here there are many and that has made my life rich. When I lived in Somalia I didn't even know what a Chinese person looked like and now I can understand them.

Cameron: I think if we didn't have any diversity then we'd all just be a bunch of hypocritical racists because everyone always goes on about how NZ supports cultural diversity and they get all angry at people who don't support it like the National Front. Without cultural diversity what would New Zealand be? If you took every one out of our society who wasn't a kiwi or like a native New Zealander then you would see what's missing ... how many of your friends and colleagues would be gone.

Tala: I have a greater appreciation for the different cultures I am surrounded by. Socially, I am more accepting of others whose cultures I am not familiar with.

3. What do you think the future holds for the people of Aotearoa New Zealand?

Asha: I think the future holds peace between Māori and Pākehā.

Cameron: I think we will have a multicultural society in the future. All the work people are doing at the moment is helping a lot toward a better relationship between cultures, and I think that in no time our society will be more understanding of all cultures and religions.

Tala: A more united society after a period of adjustment. While New Zealand's ethnic diversity is increasing (and with this, often contention), I believe traditional, conservative New Zealanders will come to appreciate the enhancements of food, lifestyle etc that other cultures bring.

1. What is Te Tiriti o Waitangi and why do we have it?

Asha (20): It is an agreement between Māori and Pākehā. One was written in Māori and one was written in English and there was an argument because the Treaty was different in each language. We have it now because we have celebrated it in the past.

Cameron (17): I don't really know what the Treaty is for, all I know is that there's lots of debate about it because it wasn't translated properly.

Tala (19): An internationally recognised treaty/agreement between Pākehā and Māori.



"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Nelson Mandela, 11/02/90

Taking action



- What is your ethnicity? Talk to your parents and grandparents about your family history and culture.
- Speak out against racism. If someone is racist towards you, or you witness somebody else being racist, tell somebody you trust – like a parent or teacher.
- Consider how rich your life is because of ethnic diversity. Write a list of all the people and places in the world that influence your daily life. You can start with the things around you – where was paper invented, what country does your favourite food come from, where is your favourite TV programme made, where were your shoes made? Then move on to the people you know - what is their ethnicity, what have you learned from them?
- Learn another language. You could start with a language that you have easy access to like te reo Māori or Samoan. Start off slowly, learn how to say "hello" and "thank you". Find somebody who speaks your new language to practise your new words with.
- Express yourself. Paint a picture, write a poem or a song, do whatever is easiest for you, and express your positive feelings about ethnic diversity.
- Get together with a few friends and develop a cultural diversity strategy for your school.

Glossary

Colonial/Colonise/Colonisation: To take over a place (especially countries) and use it as if it were ones own.

Discriminate: To make an unfair distinction in the treatment of different people, especially on the grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or ability.

Diversity: means variety. A society that promotes ethnic diversity believes that different ethnicities can live together without losing their identity to any other ethnicity.

Genocide: The deliberate killing of a very large number of people from a particular ethnic group or nation.

Indigenous: Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place.

Machete: A broad, heavy knife.

Migrant: Somebody who moves from one country to another by choice or need.

Militia: A military force that is raised from the civilian population.

Refugee: A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

Source of definitions: Concise Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2002

Acknowledgements

Polish Refugee Children at Pahiatua, 1940s. (page 4)
Source: www.polishheritage.co.nz/PAHIATUA/SKWARKO/PHOTOS/F22A.HTM This photo is copyrighted. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan (page 4) Paul Holmes, Broadcaster Photos courtesy of the Diasporian News, www.ghanaweb.com/

Treaty of Waitangi (page 5) Archives New Zealand / Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Wellington office[Archives Reference: IA 9/9] Dame Whina Cooper at 1975 Land March (page 5) Photograph and copyright: Christian Heinegg CF Heinegg Collection Alexander Turnbull Library Reference Number: PA7-15-18 Permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library must be obtained before any re-use of this image

Nelson Mandela (page 7) Photo courtesy of the African National Congress. www.anc.org.za/people/mandela.html

Websites

www.takingitglobal.org is an interactive website led by young people to discuss global and local issues. Check out what young people around the globe are saying, websites, groups and global

www.pacificpeoplespartnership.org focuses on education, advocacy and networking on issues of concern to Pacific Islanders.

www.urbanalliance.ca is a Canadian group working to promote educational programmes, advocacy and research, addressing racism in society. See how this group is raising awareness of racial issues in their community.

www.converge.org.nz/pma/hright.htm offers a list of articles and information on human rights in Aotearoa New Zealand on the Peace Movement Aotearoa website.

www.hrc.co.nz is the website of Aotearoa New Zealand's Human Rights Commission.

www.unhcr.ch is the website for the United Nations Refugee Agency whose aim is to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.

www.treatyofwaitangi.govt.nz includes the Treaty in English and te reo Māori, biographies of people important in the history of te Tiriti, and links to further resources.

www.amnesty.org.nz is the website for Amnesty International, an organization that works to protect human rights worldwide.



Change for a just world

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