



20 April 2019

United Nations Intervention 2019

1. It is an honour to here as an indigenous women, as a health professional and representing Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa, NZNO.
2. 'Te Ara Manaaki Tāngata ',the pathway to nurturing relationships as envisaged by Akenehi Hei one of Māori nursing and midwifery pioneers. Her strength has empowered Māori nurses to take a stand for change, and address the health inequity of our people.
3. It is essential that global health and wellbeing must include indigenous voices at the highest decision making levels
4. Evidence shows that systems barriers to accessing culturally appropriate healthcare services and structural discrimination against Māori ,are causes of health inequities as reflected in our
 - Shorter life expectancy
 - Less access to primary healthcare
 - Less access to treatment
 - Greater risk of misdiagnosis and mistreatment
5. Along with many other health professionals the Māori Nurses do not accept that such inequalities are acceptable ,just ,necessary or fair in a developed country like Aotearoa /New Zealand
6. Furthermore the health system fails to;
 - increase capacity and capability of a Maori nursing workforce to match population demands it serves
 - address the funding and contracting disparities that continue to permit a pay difference of up to 25% between those that work within Maori and Iwi

Providers and those that work within Hospitals

These national issues remain unaddressed.

7. Retention and recruitment of Māori nurses is vital for the future health and wellbeing of our people. Action is required, to develop a Māori nursing workforce strategy with further investment, resourcing and vision to achieve this goal. It is disappointing despite our numerous submissions, meetings and legal challenges against the Crown breaches of indigenous rights , that we must come to the forum to pressure our government for action.

In Conclusion

8. We **agree**, that the UN develop an independent monitoring body for the implementation of the UN declaration, including our indigenous rights to health and wellbeing
9. We call upon our NZ government to rectify ILO 169, we can no longer ask our indigenous people to work in the lowest paid jobs.
10. We **agree** that Aotearoa New Zealand needs indigenous led solutions informed by indigenous knowledge to guide our future health and wellbeing
11. We must frame recruitment initiatives within an indigenous worldview that takes into account indigenous rights ,realities ,values ,priorities and processes
12. We ask UN to include ILO 169 reporting as part of a monitoring framework, in developed countries such as ours.

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