



A Covenant for our Nations Children

We the people of Aotearoa New Zealand make a solemn and enduring covenant with our nation's children, whoever they are and wherever they may be, in equal measure, those children who are born and those born in the future.

We as New Zealanders undertake an unconditional duty to do all in our power to ensure that all our children are treasured, respected and enjoy a good life full of opportunity in a nation that is diverse and rich in culture and aroha.

This covenant recognises that to allow our children to thrive and stand strong at home, in their communities and in the world, we need to take responsibility for our role in the lives of all children. To that end, we will be champions for our children and will act with integrity in our dealings with them and treat them fairly in all things to ensure that they receive justice.

We will protect them from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect.

We will strive to provide them with a proper standard of living.

We will preserve and respect their sense of identity, in particular by strengthening the bonds with parents, family, whanau, hapu and iwi.

We will support the emotional, social, physical and mental wellbeing of every child.

We will provide them with education that acknowledges their individual needs and maximises their potential.

We will hear the voices of children and take their views and their interests into account.

We will ensure they are at the centre when making decisions about them.

We will strive to ensure children have the benefit of continuity and stability in their lives.

Our vision is that every child of our nation will be valued and have a sense of place, a place to stand and know their place.

We make this pledge to every child.

Childhood should be a time of joy and light. It should be free from fear and neglect and isolation.

We will do all that we can to implement this covenant both in times of plenty and in leaner times, knowing always that this solemn commitment made to our children runs deeper than money and resources, but touches upon who we are as a nation, how we define ourselves and our relationships to each other, our connection to our land and all of the peoples who live on our land.

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Kawenata Tamariki – Children's Covenant

