7 July 2017

Secretary  
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination UNOG -OHCHR  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

By Email: cerd@ohchr.org

**Re: Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Fifth Periodic Report of New Zealand, 2016**

1. ACYA (Action for Children and Youth in Aotearoa) is a coalition of non-governmental organisations that leads reporting on children’s rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other international human rights instruments.
2. We wish to draw the Committee’s attention to the concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on Aotearoa New Zealand’s fifth periodic UNCRC report, issued on 30 September 2016. (CRC/C/NZL/CO/5 )
3. In its concluding observations, as a matter of priority, the CRC urged Aotearoa New Zealand to adopt urgent measures to address issues for children belonging to minority or indigenous groups.
4. Specifically it recommended, in paragraph 42, that

“*With reference to the Committee’s general comment No. 11 (2009) on indigenous children and their rights under the Convention, the Committee urges the State party to develop a comprehensive, cross-sectorial strategy for the full enjoyment of the rights of Maori and Pasifika children, in close cooperation with them and their communities*. “

1. In addition, throughout the CRC’s concluding observations there are specific references to Māori and Pasifika children and the need to give attention to issues affecting them. These include:
   1. Access to education, health services and minimum standard of living for Māori and Pasifika children (para 15)
   2. Māori and Pasifika children in care (para 16)
   3. Māori youth suicide (para 17)
   4. Māori identity (para 19)
   5. Potentially discriminatory surveillance and information gathering practices based on ethnicity (para 20)
   6. Violence, abuse and neglect (para 22 and 23)
   7. Culturally appropriate support for parents (para 26)
   8. Over representation of Māori children in State care (para 28)
   9. Māori children with disabilities (para 30)
   10. Access to mental health services for Māori and Pasifika children (31)
   11. Reducing the prevalence of preventable and infectious diseases, including by improving housing conditions, for Māori and Pasifika children (31)
   12. Promoting breastfeeding within Māori families (para 33)
   13. The impact of climate change on Māori and Pasifika children (para 34)
   14. Child poverty (para 36)
   15. Over representation of Māori and Pasifika children in school disciplinary processes (para 37)
   16. Access to early childhood education for Māori and Pasifika children (para 38)
   17. Over-representation of Māori and Pasifika children and young people in the youth justice system. (para 45).
2. We hope this information is of assistance to the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Te One

Chair

Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA)