



Congregational Leaders'  
Conference Aotearoa  
New Zealand

**3 April 2024**

### **Catholic Congregational Leaders alarmed at Treaty politicking**

The following is a statement from members of the Catholic Church's Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand [CLCANZ]:

"Te Tiriti o Waitangi was the foundational document of Aotearoa, with Bishop Pompallier present at the gathering. It had the flavour of a covenant, a sacred agreement. It was between the British Colonial Office, then, and the Government, today, and Māori. Any ongoing conversations today should involve members from both parties.

"We, the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand [CLCANZ], are alarmed at the rhetoric around curbing Māori language and attempting to re-write the principles of the Treaty.

"This is not a time to remain silent and unmoved. This current coalition government appears to be continuing a litany of broken promises to Māori, the indigenous peoples of our country.

"We stand in protest at the attitude of the present coalition government in disestablishing the bicultural relationship between Māori and the Crown, and destroying many efforts made over significant years.

"We commit ourselves to learning more about our responsibilities living in a bicultural milieu."

Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions RNDM  
Divine Word Missionaries SVD  
Dominican Sisters OP  
Franciscan Friars OFM  
Little Sisters of the Assumption LSA  
Marist Sisters SM  
Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy of New Zealand RSM  
Sisters of the Good Shepherd RGS  
Society of St Columban SSC  
Sisters of Compassion

For further information, please contact the President of CLCANZ, Fr Thomas Rouse, Regional Councillor for Oceania, St Columban's Mission Society, phone: 04 5677216, email [presidentclcanz2022@gmail.com](mailto:presidentclcanz2022@gmail.com)