

MEDIA STATEMENT

28 November, 2010

HAURAKI HUI REAFFIRMS MĀORI WOMEN LEADERSHIP

A national hui of Māori women, *Te Whaainga Wāhine* have condemned the exclusion of wāhine from national, regional, local and Māori political forums.

The hui made specific reference to the Iwi Leaders Group who do not speak for Māori women.

The hui, the first called in thirty years, has challenged Māori leadership that advance the political agenda of the National-ACT-Maori Party Coalition at the expense of whenua, whānau and hapu wellbeing.

Hui spokesperson Denise Meisster said *Te Whaainga Wāhine* confirmed Maori women's political, spiritual and rangatahi leadership to carry current and future generations to 2040.

The hui was honoured with the presence of international Cree leader, Sharon Venn, Chair of the Indigenous Caucus, who drafted the original Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She expressed absolute disgust at the misrepresentation by New Zealand representatives of the original intent of the Declaration, and called on women to re-engage with the UN.

The hui affirmed Tino Rangatiratanga by 2040 and implemented a specific plan of action to achieve this. *Te Whaainga Wāhine* will be reconvened in Feb, 2011 in Palmerston North.

ENDS

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