



Human Rights  
Commission  
Te Kāhui Tika Tangata

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New Zealand Human Rights Commission**

**Transcript of a video message prepared for the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcome, 19 June 2014.**

Mr President, Distinguished Representatives of Member and Observer States of the Human Rights Council, Distinguished Representatives of the State of New Zealand I am honoured to provide this statement by New Zealand's National Human Rights Institution. Thank you for the opportunity.

This UPR process has been constructive. It was notable for the high level of engagement by both Government and civil society. In order for the UPR process to work civil society needs to engage; the State needs to listen and States on the Human Rights Council need to make recommendations. Each of those key steps happened in this review.

The second cycle saw a large improvement in both the number of submissions and the number of civil society groups that engaged. The actions that are now taken by the State will be key to maintaining and growing that engagement over the next cycle.

I also acknowledge the number of recommendations made by States and accepted by New Zealand.

The Government has indicated that it intends to follow up issues raised that were not reflected in the recommendations by States. This is very heartening and bodes well for the future.

The Commission will now work closely with the State, business and civil society in New Zealand to develop and implement a Second National Plan of Action for Human Rights. This plan will include a set of measurable and concrete actions to deliver an improvement in the realisation of human rights in New Zealand. It is deliberately prepared at the end of the second UPR cycle to cover the period of the third UPR cycle. We are optimistic that improvements can be achieved prior to New Zealand's next universal periodic review.

I thank the Human Rights Council and the States that made recommendations for your work to improve the realisation of human rights in New Zealand.