

Report for Religions for Peace Aotearoa New Zealand 2023

This year has been dominated by the wars in Gaza and Israel, and in Ukraine. Tensions have been evident between religious communities in Aotearoa New Zealand impacted by these and other conflicts.

RfP ANZ (Religious Diversity Centre) have been active in trying to maintain dialogue and positive, peaceful, and purposeful relationships between communities across Aotearoa. Activities have included a silent vigil and candle lighting event at Wellington Cathedral of St. Paul, and in formal and informal meetings between religious leaders and communities.

RDC hosted the 2023 Religious Leaders Forum on 5 December 2023 at St John's Theological College, Auckland focussing on the important role religious leaders play in today's society by expressing the spirituality and values shared by the diverse religions. <https://rdc.org.nz/religious-leaders/>. <https://rdc.org.nz/religious-leaders-forum-2023/>.

The Call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, endorsed by supporters was sent to the NZ delegation at the UN COP28 Conference and the international organising centre for the Call. <https://rdc.org.nz/the-call-for-ffnp-treaty/>. The webinar series, *E tu te mana o Te Ao, Building a Climate of Hope* was made available online. <https://rdc.org.nz/webinar-series-recordings/>.

Religious Diversity and Non-Discrimination workshops were held for students, teachers, NGOs, social and health workers.

Resilient Religious Communities/ Hapori Whakapono Manawaraoa: A Guide to Disaster Resilience for religious communities was produced by the RDC and Auckland Emergency Management in a consultation process that drew the diverse local religious communities in various areas of Auckland together. Further workshops are planned in other centres. <https://rdc.org.nz/resilient-religious-communities-2/> [file:///C:/Users/Paul%20Morris/OneDrive/Desktop/RDC%20Current/resilient-religious-communities-guide-aug23%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Paul%20Morris/OneDrive/Desktop/RDC%20Current/resilient-religious-communities-guide-aug23%20(1).pdf)

In addition, we have worked in partnership with the Ministry of Ethnic Communities to bring religious leaders together in Auckland for an initial meeting in 2023 to promote peaceful relations between the religious communities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

RfP ANZ took part in the 2023 Prayers and Meditations on Hiroshima Day https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A51_v3ZEMeE. We plan to work in the coming year more closely with RfP Australia, in particular on planning for a seminar on terrorism in our region, and with RfP Australia and AYPIN and others in RfP Asia on an online event remembering the 80th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (8-10 August 2025).

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May 2024
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