



**AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND**

**REO TAKETAKE
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE**

**TE MATAHUHUA O TE
TANGATATANGA ME TE
TAERATANGA
DIVERSE SEXUALITY
AND GENDER**





**KO TŌU REO, KO TŌKU REO
TE TUAKIRI TANGATA
TIHEI URIURI,
TIHEI NAKONAKO**

YOUR VOICE AND MY VOICE
ARE EXPRESSIONS OF
IDENTITY
MAY OUR DESCENDANTS
LIVE ON
AND OUR HOPES BE FULFILLED



As Aotearoa New Zealand's Ambassador Gender Equality (Pacific)/Tuia Tāngata I am committed to advocating for women and girls in all our intersecting identities.

Aotearoa New Zealand supports equal rights for all regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and we are committed to demonstrating leadership on the global stage is a top priority under our International Human Rights Action Plan 2019-2023.

We stand alongside people of diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics), our Pacific family, and the wider global community to demonstrate our shared commitment to human rights and values.

To highlight the way in which people of diverse SOGIESC have always had a place in indigenous culture in our region, the editors of this booklet have produced this glossary of reo Māori terminology for people of diverse SOGIESC. In this way, we celebrate the place of rainbow communities in Aotearoa New Zealand as part of the diversity of the peoples of Te Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa.



This pukapuka (book) assembles Māori words and phrases, together with their sources. The list makes it clear that language and words are dynamic and contested according to how the words are being used and by whom. These kupu (words), used to describe identity or social qualities, have an indigenous cultural meaning or whakapapa (genealogy) as opposed to transliterations or words that make sense to a non-indigenous person.

This pukapuka champions the creation of a list of words, the use of words like these and seeks to encourage indigenous thought in creating new words. If we do not, we risk colonising indigenous language with non-indigenous terms and thinking. This approach might be useful in activating or reactivating indigenous culture and language. This Aotearoa list comes from our own experience and development. We know others have worked on or are working on their own glossaries and hope to one day see a shared Pacific glossary encompassing the language and terminology of all our peoples.

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Kupu

Aronga taera

Sexual orientation

Te Whariki Takapau, 2020. Te Ira Tangata

Hinehī

Transsexual, male or female

Black, 2007. Mana Takatāpui in Sexuality and the stories of indigenous people

Hinetau

Drag Queen, male or female

Black, 2007. Mana Takatāpui in Sexuality and the stories of indigenous people
NZAF, 2005. Ko Ia

Huri ā-ira

Gender fluidity

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from
<https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Hurihanga ira tangata/aronga taera

Gender/sexual conversion practices

Te Kahui Tangata / Human Rights Commission 24 February 2023

Hurihanga takatāpui

Gender/sexual conversion practices

Te Kahui Tangata / Human Rights Commission 24 February 2023

Ira tāhūrua-kore

Mixed gender, or non-binary

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from
<https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Ira Tangata

This is a Māori reference to identity and whakapapa. This term acknowledges in te reo that Māori are Indigenous first, and are not defined by any single characteristic or variation.

Intersex within an ao Māori view is an emergent area that is being explored within this re-indigenising era of Aotearoa.

Intersex Aotearoa, 13 February 2023, retrieved from <https://www.intersexaotearoa.org/ira-tangata>

Irahuhua

Gender diverse, gender variance

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Irahuri

Gender fluid, or to turn, change, or move gender. Sometimes this can also mean transgender

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Irakē

GenderQueer, or different gender

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Irakore

Agender, or no gender

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Irapūmau

Cisgender, or permanent fixed gender

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Irawhiti

Transgender, or gender that changes, transfers, or crosses over. Irawhiti specifies transgender specifically or ira whiti takatāpui to replace the more generic takatāpui for all transgender identities

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Mae irawhiti, mae irahuri

Anti-trans, or transphobia

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Mae takatāpui

Homophobia

Te Aka, 21 Jan 2023 retrieved from <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=takatapui>

Rerekētanga āhuatanga ā-ira

Variations of sex characteristics

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Tāhine

Mixed gender, or non-binary. Tāhine is a blend of Tāne and wahine

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Taihemarua

Intersex

Te Aka, 21 Jan 2023 retrieved from <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=intersex>

Takatāpui

- Takatāpui is a Te Reo Māori term, which is used similarly to "rainbow person" or "rainbow community", or LGBTQI+. When speaking te reo Māori, the word for LGBTQI+ people is Takatāpui. Therefore, one would use this word to refer to both Māori and non-Māori. However, usually only Māori people would call themselves Takatāpui when speaking English.

Takatāpui originally meant an intimate companion of the same gender – as in the story of Tūtānekai and Tiki. Tūtānekai married Hinemoa, and his close relationship with Tiki was not necessarily a rainbow relationship. However, contemporary use of Takatāpui most often refers to tāne moe tāne (men who sleep with men), or wahine moe wahine (women who sleep with women). It is sometimes used to refer to other rainbow people, including transgender people.

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

- Takatāpui is a traditional term meaning 'intimate companion of the same sex'. It has been reclaimed to embrace all Māori who identify with diverse genders and sexualities such as whakawāhine, tangata ira tāne, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer. All of these and more are included within Rainbow communities.

Kerekere, 2016. Takatāpui: Part of the Whānau

- Takatāpui is a traditional term meaning 'intimate companion of the same sex'. It has been reclaimed to embrace all Māori who identify with diverse genders and sexualities such as whakawāhine (trans women), tangata ira tāne (trans men), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer. These are often grouped under the term Rainbow communities.

Kerekere, 2017. Growing up Takatāpui: Whānau Journeys.

- Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, LGBTQIA+, close friend of the same gender

Te Whariki Takapau, 2020. Te Ira Tangata

- (modifier) close (friend), intimate (friend).
- (noun) close friend (of the same gender), intimate friend (of the same gender).
- (noun) lesbian, gay, homosexual, gay men and women.

Te Aka, 21 Jan 2023 retrieved from <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=takatapui>

Tāne moe tāne

Homosexual man

Te Whariki Takapau, 2020. Te Ira Tangata

Tangata ira tāne

- A person who has the essence of a man

NZAF, 2005. Ko Ia

- Trans man, or person with the spirit or gender of man

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Tangata ira wahine

- Trans woman, or a person with the spirit or gender of woman

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

- A person who has the essence of a woman

NZAF, 2005. Ko Ia

Tikanga ā-ira whānui

Gender norms

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Tīrengi ā-ira

Gender dysphoria or anxiety

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Tuakiri-ā-ira

Gender identity

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from <https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Wahine moe wahine

Homosexual woman, lesbian

Te Whariki Takapau, 2020. Te Ira Tangata

Wairua-tāpui-poke

Homophobia

Black, 2007. Mana Takatāpui in Sexuality and the stories of indigenous people

Whakaaehinekiri

Recognise oneself as a female

NZAF, 2005. Ko ia

Whakamana ira

Gender affirming, or to have pride in ones gender

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from
<https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Whakaputa ā-ira

Gender expression

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from
<https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Whakatāne

Trans man, to create or be in the manner of a man

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from
<https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

Whakawahine

- Trans woman, to create or be in the manner of a woman

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, 16 Jan 2023, retrieved from
<https://genderminorities.com/glossary-transgender/>

- To be like a woman

NZAF, 2005. Ko ia



The Editors - Kevin Haunui

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- **Te Whāriki Takapou**, a Māori organisation providing Māori sexual and reproductive health promotion, research, and policy and advisory services.
- **Tiwhanawhana Trust**, a Takatāpui community group, based in Wellington, that welcomes people of diverse sexualities and gender identity. Its purpose is primarily for Takatāpui; building community, telling their stories, and leaving a legacy that will inspire others.
- **LAGANZ, the Lesbian and Gay Archives of New Zealand - Te Pūranga Takatāpui o Aotearoa**, a community trust which collects, archives, and makes available for research the records and personal papers of LGBTTIFQ people and organisations. The Lesbian and Gay Archives, are accessible through the Alexander Turnbull Library of the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington. LGBTTIFQ means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, takatāpui, fa'afafine, intersex or queer and includes any same-sex attracted, transgender or intersex members of any indigenous community of the Pacific.

The Editors Tu Chapman


Intersex Aotearoa are the representative peak body that provides support, education, and advocacy to the Intersex community in Aotearoa. Mātauranga Māori in relation to tuakiritanga – identity, is an important if not critical component of IA strategic direction.

Tu Chapman is the co-chair of Intersex Aotearoa a proven thought leader on mātauranga Māori and its appropriate use through an ao Māori lens.

“Ira Tangata is an appropriate term for Māori who identify as Intersex. The term encourages you to look at the person and their whakapapa”.



**Indigenous Takatāpui
LGBTQIA+ terminology are
crucial for people-centered
development in the Pacific
as they honor and recognise
the diverse cultural
expressions and experiences
of Indigenous peoples of
Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.**

By embracing and valuing these
identities, it fosters cultural
pride, self-determination, and
social cohesion, promoting
inclusive and sustainable
development in the region. 

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**NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE**
Manatū Aorere



Lesbian & Gay Archives of New Zealand

Te Pūranga Takatāpui o Aotearoa