

Ethnic Advantage 2025

United Against Headwinds

Preamble

Get ready to dive into an electrifying exploration of how New Zealand's vibrant ethnic communities are the heartbeat of social cohesion!

This conference will shine a spotlight on the incredible contributions Ethnic Communities make to our society, especially as we navigate the stormy seas of global tensions, skyrocketing living costs, rising unemployment, and looming threats of conflict. Join us for a dynamic and inspiring event celebrating unity, resilience, and the power of diversity to build a stronger, more connected New Zealand.

Insights gleaned from each session in the conference will feed into what government is currently doing so that Ethnic Communities' voices are included.

Key takeaways for participants

- **The Role of Ethnic Communities in Social Cohesion:**
 - Understanding the diverse cultural contributions that holds us together as New Zealanders.
 - Celebrating success stories and understanding what works.
- **Challenges and Opportunities in Times of Crisis:**
 - Addressing the impact of global geopolitical tensions on local communities and what they can do about it.
- **Building Resilience Through Unity:**
 - Promoting practical dialogue and mutual understanding with each other.
 - Showcasing community-based initiatives to strengthen social bonds and share best practice.

Date: Saturday, 28 June 2025

Venue: Aotea Convention Centre, Auckland

Audience: Ethnic community leaders, ethnic service providers, ethnic faith leaders, heads of government agencies, ethnic media, representatives from philanthropic organisations.

Proposed programme

Time	Session	Speakers
8.30 – 9.00 am	Registration Opportunity to view stalls	
9.00 – 9.15 am	Welcome Level 1, Hunua Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mihi Whakatau from Mana Whenua TBC • Jehan Casinader, Reporter of the Year by the NZ Television Awards - Emcee • Mervin Singham, Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities
9.15 – 9.45 am	Minister’s Sofa Interview Level 1, Hunua Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Mitchell, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Police, Corrections, Emergency Management & Recovery, Sport & Recreation • Minister Brown, Minister for Auckland, Health, State Owned Enterprises • Moderator: Jehan Casinader
9.45 – 10.45 am	Panel: Cultivating Social Cohesion - Multiple views on what social cohesion means to New Zealand Level 1, Hunua Room Audience Q+A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dame Jenny Shipley, Former Prime Minister • Rahul Watson Govindan, Chief Executive at Philanthropy New Zealand • Ireen Rahiman-Manuel, Founder of Impactdev360 • Moderator: Jehan Casinader
10.45 – 11.15 am	Morning Tea Opportunity to view stalls	
11.15 am – 12.15 pm	Panel: Foreign Influence versus Foreign Interference -Know the difference Level 1, Hunua Room Audience Q+A –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Hampton, Director-General of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service • Nathan Smyth, Deputy Secretary for National Security & Resilience at the Department of Home Affairs Australia • Pratima Namasivayam, DCE Advisory, Analytics, Ministerial at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities • Moderator: Ziena Jalil, Campaign Asia Pacific’s Women to Watch Finalist

Time	Session	Speakers
12.15 – 1.25 pm	Lunch Opportunity to view stalls	
1.25 – 1.30 pm	Cultural Performance Level 1, Hunua Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tierra Viva – Colombian Dance Group
1.30 – 2.30 pm	Panel: United in Crises - National emergencies and disaster management Level 1, Hunua Room Audience Q+A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Gawn, Chief Executive at NEMA • Red Tsounga, President of the Aotearoa Africa Foundation • Sarah Stuart-Black, Secretary General of Red Cross New Zealand • Moderator: Jehan Casinader
2.30 – 3.00 pm	Presentation: Ethnic Evidence – Do we know our numbers? Level 1, Hunua Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deb Potter, Principal Analyst at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities
3.00 – 3.45 pm	Afternoon Tea Opportunity to view stalls	
3.45 – 4.30 pm	BREAKOUT CONCURRENT Financial Sustainability for Community Organisations Level 1, Hunua Room Audience Q+A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rahul Watson Govindan, Chief Executive at Philanthropy New Zealand • Jenny Wang, Founder of the CNSST Foundation • Third speaker TBC • Moderator: Berlinda Chin, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Time	Session	Speakers
3.45 – 4.30 pm	BREAKOUT CONCURRENT Kai and Discourse – Is it ‘food for thought’ or ‘food for action’? Level 3, Waitakere Room 1 Audience Q+A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manjit Grewal, Ekta Community Kitchen Hub • Tony Green, Mahia te Aroha • Aram Wu, Fair Food • Moderator: Kimberley Wu, Director of National Operations at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities
3.45 – 4.30 pm	BREAKOUT CONCURRENT Community resilience and foreign interference Level 3, Waitakere Room 2 Audience Q+A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers TBC • Moderator: Ruksana Shaikh, Director of Security & Resilience at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities
4.35 – 4.45 pm	Closing remarks and video montage Level 1, Hunua Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mervin Singham, Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities
4.45 – 4.55 pm	Farewell Level 1, Hunua Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana Whenua TBC • Jehan Casinader, Emcee
4.55 – 5.30 pm	Networking	