

7th February 2025

### **Statement of Concern from Intersex Aotearoa**

This statement serves to firmly oppose the American government's efforts to erase intersex and rainbow communities and to highlight our deep concern that Aotearoa New Zealand is heading in the same direction.

#### United States of America

Intersex Aotearoa condemns the recent wave of executive orders and government actions targeting gender and sexual diversity. These policies are not only blatant violations of human rights but also fundamentally contradict modern scientific and biological understanding. Humans are not confined to a strict male-female binary at any stage of life, and the administration's attempt to justify the exclusion of intersex and rainbow people under the guise of 'science' is both misleading and dangerous.

While we do not typically comment on international politics, the growing hostility towards intersex and gender-diverse people in the US and beyond has direct and far-reaching consequences, including here in Aotearoa.

Our Pasifika whānau are the most impacted right now especially given that most if not all of the Pacific receive USAID funding. Funding that contributes significantly to medical aid for diseases and infections, education and social awareness campaigns that better educate communities.

As a member of ILGA Oceania, Intersex Aotearoa is resolute in its support to the Pasifika community who will be bracing themselves.

Intersex Aotearoa stand in solidarity with intersex and gender-diverse communities affected by these regressive policies, as well as the countless others harmed by broader human rights rollbacks under the Trump administration.

#### The impacts for New Zealand

Intersex Aotearoa is increasingly alarmed by the New Zealand coalition government's moves to undermine the healthcare system, silencing Māori voices, and the utter decimation of rainbow and human rights-based medicine and policy.

Under the guise of efficiency and reform, we are witnessing a blatant disregard for the progress made under previous governments to address the needs of rainbow, Māori, and intersex communities. These actions are part of a broader global trend of rejecting science suppressing marginalised voices, and rolling back human rights.



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Intersex Aotearoa rejects these attacks on science, lived experience, and fundamental human rights. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and call on the government to immediately halt its harmful policies that disproportionately impact intersex, Māori, and rainbow communities. We urge decision-makers to uphold their responsibility to protect human rights and ensure inclusive, science-based policies that serve all communities.

### Who we are

Intersex Aotearoa is the operating name of the Intersex Trust of Aotearoa New Zealand. As the peak body for intersex people in Aotearoa, we work towards a future where intersex people are visible, respected, and celebrated.