

## Twenty-one Ways to Take Away Treaty Rights

*This article was written by Cheryl Waerea-i-te-rangi Smith of Ngati Porou, Ngati Apa. It was inspired by a similar list written by Jerry Gambill, a Mohawk Scholar, in 1968, titled 'Twenty-one Ways to Scalp an Indian'. It highlights many of the ways in which the Crown has sought to undermine our rights under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, over the past 155 years. It shows how there are many ways that the Crown are attempting to do this and that in order to stop this we must be aware of the ways in which they do it. This list provides us with examples of some of the ways in which the Crown works to deny us our rights and the rights of our tamariki and mokopuna.*

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**Are you having a problem with the local Maori? There is no need for this you just have to know how to handle them. Here is a list of how to get Maori to be co-operative and more receptive to Pakeha thinking.**

1. Make the Maori a non-person. Convince them that their ancestors were savages, that they are violent drunkards or make them wards of the state. Fund a movie that reinforces these views and then take accolades for it. Make special legislation just for them, like the Maori Prisoners' Bill or the Tohunga Suppression Act. Write history books that say they didn't exist prior to the arrival of Captain Cook.
2. Convince Maori that they should be patient - what's 150 years? Tell them that progress is being made but that progress takes time.
3. Make Maori believe that things are being done for their own good. Tell them that you are sure that after they have experienced the benefits of the British legal system and the government policies then they will realise how good you have been. Tell the Maori that they must take a little of the bad in order to enjoy the benefits being bestowed on them.
4. Get some Maori people to do the dirty work. There are always those who will act for you to disadvantage their own. Just give them a knighthood, make them a dame or else give them some praise. This is the whole point of having Trust Boards, Runanga, Te Puni Kokiri, the Maori Women's Welfare League etc. They don't have a lot of legal power but can take the tough decisions like how to actually implement the current government policies.
5. Consult with Maori but don't act on what they tell you. Tell Maori that they have a voice, then act as if you are listening, then reinterpret what they have said to suit your own needs.
6. Insist that Maori '*go through the proper channels*'. Make the channels and procedures so difficult and expensive that they will either run out of energy or money.
7. Make the Maori believe that you are putting a lot of effort into working for them and that really they should be appreciative. This is really getting somewhere when you can get the thanks of your victim.

8. Allow a few individuals to 'make the grade' and then point to them as examples. Say that the hard workers and the good Maori like Alan Duff have made it and therefore it is the person's own fault if they don't succeed.
9. Appeal to the Maori sense of fairness or aroha and tell them that even though things are pretty bad, it's not good for them to make strong protest. Keep the argument going about their troublemaking and avoid the real issues. Refuse to deal with them while they are protesting. Tell them you will deal with them when they can settle down.
10. Encourage the Maori to take their case to court, even to the Privy Council. This is very expensive, takes lots of time and energy and is very safe because the laws are stacked against them. The Court ruling will defeat the Maori cause but will give the impression that justice has been done.
11. Make the Maori believe that things could be worse and that instead of complaining about their loss of land point out that they should be grateful for the state house that they are renting. In fact convince them that any attempt to regain land will mean an increase in rent.
12. Set yourself up a pretend court with no powers, like the Waitangi Tribunal. Give the impression that things are being given back and accuse them of being greedy when they point out that nothing is being returned.
13. Pretend that the reason for the loss of human rights is for some reason other than the fact that the person is Maori. Tell them that some of your best friends are Maori and that their loss of rights is because of their dirty houses, drinking and clothing. If they improve in these areas it will be necessary for you to adopt another technique of stealing their rights.
14. Make the situation more complicated than is necessary Tell Maori that you will have to do some research to find out just how many other Maori are being discriminated against. Hire a group of academics to make a year-long research project. Spend most of the research funding on areas like smoking and drinking so you can tell Maori in detail how bad they really are.
15. Insist on unanimous decision-making. Tell them that when all the Maori in Aotearoa can make up their minds about just what they want as a group then you will act. Play one iwi off against another so there is never a unanimous decision.
16. Select very limited alternatives, neither of which has much merit then, tell the Maori that they indeed do have a choice. For example, ask them if they want MMP or First Past the Post, instead of asking what they do want.
17. Convince the Maori that the leaders who are most beneficial and powerful are dangerous and not to be trusted or simply lock them up on some charge like driving with no lights. Refuse to listen to the real leaders and spend more time with the weak ones. Keep the leaders split from the people by putting them on Trust Boards, Runanga, Fisheries Commission, Crown Forest Rentals Trust etc. That way no one will ever trust them again.

18. Talk about what's good for everyone. Tell the Maori that they can't consider themselves when there is the whole country to think of. Tell them that they can't think of themselves for example tell them that we should *all* be able to use their land, particularly beach fronts and forests.

19. Remove rights so gradually that the people don't realise what's happened until it is too late. For example, in regards to fishing rights first restrict the geographical area then cut the season to certain times of the year, then cut the limits down gradually, then insists on licensing.

20. Rely on reason and logic (your reason and logic) instead of rightness and morality. Give thousands of reasons for things but do not get trapped into arguments about what is right.

21. Hold a conference or hui on Treaty rights or iwi development. This allows everyone to blow off steam and they go home feeling as if something has been done.



*Gil Hanly*