



# JUST PRACTICE ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

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**Bachelor of Social Practice class of 2021**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka  
25th - 26th November

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# Nau mai haere mai , Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei, Kia Orana, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, welcome.

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On behalf of the Chief Executive of Unitec Mr Gus Gilmore, the Executive Leadership team and the staff from the Bachelor of Social Practice, we warmly welcome you to the Just Practice Symposium 2021.

The Bachelor of Social Practice programme is delivered within the School of Healthcare and Social Practice at Waitakere Campus, Henderson. This Programme attracts and engages highly motivated students who are knowledgeable and committed. They have been provided the opportunity to develop critical awareness and skills in social practice. They are Leaders who are ready and willing to be a part of a community that will address social justice and social change.

Just Practice is a course undertaken in the fourth and final year of the Bachelor of Social Practice. Students are invited and provided the opportunity to reflect on their learning experience and develop strategies to create their own models of "just practice".

Students have made tremendous contributions to their learning and practice to ensure that they are prepared graduates with knowledge and skills to respond to both micro and systemic issues that are very much alive within communities and whānau/ families. This programme produces graduates who are Treaty-based practitioners, culturally responsive, critically reflective and ready to practice with a beginner competence.

These students have proven resilience and self- management with a determination to succeed having been through very challenging lockdowns and restrictions with the impact of Covid-19, yet through it all, have maintained their desire to succeed.

Today's symposium is a way of giving back to communities, drawing on knowledge and experiences from the past as well as new learnings to inform the future.

May I wish the BSP Just Practice students all the best for 2021 and thank them sincerely for the sharing of your taonga (treasures) that will not only enhance your practice but also contribute to our thriving communities.

He waka eke noa – We're all in this together.

Mauri Ora

Linda Aumua  
Head of School, Healthcare and Social Practice





“

**Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora te manuhiri**

With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive

”

# Accessing the symposium

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## Karakia and Opening

**Time:** Thurs Nov 25, 2021 08:30 AM Auckland

<https://unitec-ac-nz.zoom.us/j/92938551703?pwd=Z1UzTVpUSm1mdFB5MjYyYVlXWGZlZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 929 3855 1703

**Passcode:** Unitec

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## Zoom link for Ruma tuatahi

**Time:** Thurs Nov 25, 2021 09:00 AM Auckland

<https://unitec-ac-nz.zoom.us/j/93928799061?pwd=KzE1Wmk4bWJhSW5WcGJUWVRMMXZ6QT09>

**Meeting ID:** 939 2879 9061

**Passcode:** 270344

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## Zoom link for Ruma tuarua

**Time:** Thurs Nov 25, 2021 09:00 AM Auckland

<https://unitec-ac-nz.zoom.us/j/95902322297?pwd=dmRubExHY0RLdHlFeXZOMk9lT0ZPd09>

**Meeting ID:** 959 0232 2297

**Passcode:** 845852

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## Zoom link for Poroporoaki - Friday 26th November

<https://unitec-ac-nz.zoom.us/j/95413071571?pwd=Ti9RSVNHZ2YzSzhLSml2ZGNNNnpQQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 954 1307 1571

**Passcode:** 515943

# Presentation Programme Ruma Tuatahi

**Facilitator:** Arnia Tamihana-Simich

**Markers:** Whaea Paula, Jason Hallie,

Valvetta Lafolafo - Senior Business Analysts, Oranga Tamariki

09:00	Natasha de Thierry
09:30	Irene Farnham
10:00	Malia Havea
10:30	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:00	Tylah Luatua-Alatasi
11:30	Samantha Padden
12:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
01:00	Sharna Te Haara-Faleolo (Tamatu)
01:30	Mele Tuipulotu
02:00	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
02:30	Kalofiama Malakai
03:00	Muminah Ahmed & Sally Collins
03:30	Benjamin Morley & Chelym Tanuvasa
04:00	Martha Thomas & Erene Toia
04:30	Karakia Whakamutunga

# Presentation Programme Ruma Rua

**Facilitator:** Craig Tunnicliffe

**Markers:** Dr Hoa Nguyen, David Kenkel,  
Lavinia Tahilanu-Mapili - Front line care and Protection Social Worker,  
Oranga Tamariki

09:00	Megan Brown
09:30	Hannah Chapman
10:00	Jameela Diallo
10:30	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:00	Li Li
11:30	Janny Lin
12:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
01:00	Faiza Gamiieldien
01:30	Ceilidh Dalbeth (Dent) & Christina Green
02:00	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
02:30	Tracy Smith & Anna Mwaijumba (Muyunda)
03:00	Beatrice Ngurinzira & Gayde Tayler
03:30	Mikayla Joyce
04:00	Karakia Whakamutunga

# Poroporoaki

Friday 26th November 2021

09:20	Karakia
09:30	Himene
09:35	Dr Aulola Lino - Opening
09:40	Key note speaker
10:15	<b>Break</b>
10:30	Passing over of the Mauri
11:00	Poroporoaki
12:30	Closing of Symposium



# Abstracts & Biographies

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# Natasha de Thierry

## Abstract: The role of a Wāhine Toa

For this presenter, she credits her strong cultural values and beliefs to a Pākehā Mother, who provided a culturally responsive environment and was culturally sensitive when raising two Māori children.

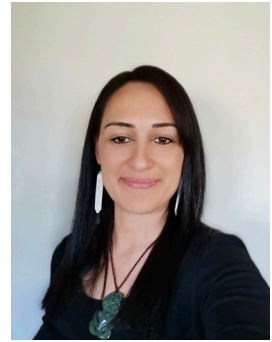
The presenter had observed her Pākehā mother learn what colonisation had done to Māori and Pasifika families and she saw social justice through the actions of a young mother's advocacy bring about change. The intersections of being Māori and Pākehā are a confusing time for young people, the constructions that society creates on the notions you can choose to be either or, see's physical identities change, but the realities of internal strong blood lines and genetics outweighs trying to be Pākehā when you are born Māori . It will take a century or more of colonising practices for Aotearoa to wade through, but the presenter has a commitment to Te Tiriti informed practices based on respecting the wishes of her Tipuna, Princess Te Puea of Tainui and what she was fighting for and wanted for our people. Her observations of how to hold systemic and structural systems to account are viewed through her framework Te Huarahi, which is embedded in Kaupapa Māori Theory, which will help structural systems understand how a Māori Practitioner works with concepts that are culturally appropriate. This is because Western frameworks have discriminated, profiled, angered and caused harm to the most vulnerable families in Aotearoa. Te Huarahi will provide a framework that will uphold the mana and tapu of individuals through applying a lot of aroha.



## Biography:

Natasha was born in Waitākere Hospital in 1983 and has spent her life living in the West Auckland Community. She was raised by a teenage mother of Pākehā ethnicity who provided a culturally responsive environment for her Māori ethnicity. From an early age, Natasha has watched advocacy play out and at the young age of five, Natasha was out on the streets telling off a group of older boys for picking on her brother. Natasha struggled to stay connected to her Māori identity as the relationship with her father was inconsistent. She had a yearning to be with her father and the wider whanau but often felt abandoned which lead to many years of alcohol and drug abuse to escape the hurt. In 2012 Natasha volunteered to go into Higher Ground Drug Rehabilitation where she underwent intense therapy to deal with the underlying causes behind her drinking and was able to unpack the sadness she felt from not growing up with a present father. In 2014, Natasha fell pregnant with her first child, a baby girl Sophia, who has helped keep Natasha on a path to where she rediscovered her calling. She joined the Bachelor of Social Practice in 2018 with the hope that her life experiences can help other rangatahi to reinforce their sense of identity and to help empower, encourage and support rangatahi and whanau with aroha and care, the way her mother has done for her.

## Irene Farnham



### Abstract: E tipu e rea: Grow and branch forth

This presentation is a reflection of my whakapapa, life experiences, education, faith, and how those elements have helped me navigate my journey to define who I am, and where I am going. I have come to realise that if seeking justice is the destination we would like to arrive at, the journey must be paved in aroha and manaakitanga; lest it diminish the intent and purpose of why we embarked towards new horizons in the first place. That is what just practice is for me. Knowing who I am and making space for others to be who they are. Colonisation has negatively impacted tāngata whenua in Aotearoa, which has shaped how I see my role as an agent of social change. Part of this is revealing Aotearoa's systemic failings and the unjust cultural harm done to Māori, which removes our nation's ability to hide from its responsibilities to step up and address the inequities. Human rights, social justice and Te Tiriti o Waitangi are underpinning principles of social work practice in Aotearoa and my framework, E Tipu e rea, encapsulates the weaving together of these things with my own personal reflections. This explains what my just practice is, and where I can see myself in the future.

### Biography:

Irene is of Ngāti Awa and Tūhoe descent. She is in her fourth year and final semester of the Bachelor of Social Practice degree at Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka, is enrolled in the Master of Applied Social Practice programme commencing semester 1 2022, and has recently started a summer internship at Ngā Wai a Te Tūi Kaupapa Māori Research Centre based at Unitec. Her interests include policy, kaupapa Māori research and Māori development. Irene's work in frontline social services prior to commencing her studies gave her insight into the inequities Māori face within our society. This prompted an interest in the social and political positioning of Māori in Aotearoa and sparked a passion for advancing the position of all tāngata Māori to actualise true Tiriti partnership. While navigating her studies, Irene has helped to provide cultural advice, support, advocacy, and learning opportunities for staff across the faith-based organisation where she is employed. Irene is a trust board member of her whānau land trust and has also invested time into protecting Māori students' spaces and events within Unitec, including the reestablishment of Unitec's Māori Students' Association.

## Malia Havea

### Abstract:

As a first-generation New Zealand born Tongan I struggled in my navigation towards self-identity. My lived experiences guided my journey to social work and my stance is firm in being a Te Tiriti based practitioner. The process of claiming my identity continues to be a work in progress and is something I continue to be aware of. This presentation demonstrates only a mere glimpse of my journey – past, present, and future. It highlights my own interpretation of social justice and how I can commit to being a just practitioner.



### Biography:

Malia Havea is an aspiring student in her final year of studying the Bachelor of Social Practice degree at Unitec. Malia is a first-generation New Zealand born Tongan, whose parents voyaged here in the hope of a better future for their children. She is the middle child of eight siblings and pays homage to her siblings for who she is and who she is yet to be. Malia's drive for incorporating holistic and indigenous views into her current and future mahi is central to who she is and continues to play a constant role in her life at 22 years of age. Her notable passions lie in working alongside tamariki and Pasifika women, but she hopes that her journey navigates her into multiple pathways.

## Tylah Luatua - Alatasi

Abstract: Avega mamafa ole tuiga – The dance of expectations

A tuiga is a headpiece that is worn by a Samoan girl when she is dressed in cultural attire to perform a traditional Samoan dance. When performing it is important to keep the headpiece balanced.

Avega mamafa o le tuiga speaks of the expectations that are unknowingly placed on a young New Zealand born Pacific girl. Due to the many expectations that she is having to take on it becomes a battle of dances as she tries to fulfill each expectation. However, these expectations can become a heavy burden causing the tuiga to become unbalanced.

This presentation will take you through the journey of what these unspoken expectations are. It will also highlight how she was able to take these burdens of expectation and use it as fuel. The different types of fuel have helped her on her way to self-identity and the fulfilment of her desire for a “just” world, both for the Pacific community and for everybody.

### Biography:

Tylah Luatua-Alatasi is a 21-year-old Samoan student. She is currently in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Social Practice degree at Unitec. She was born and raised in Auckland. Tylah hails from the villages of Safa'atoa Lefaga, Tafua-Tai and Saleimoa Salepoua'e. Tylah moved to Inala, Brisbane in 2012 and continued secondary school at Glenala State High School and graduated in 2017. She moved back to New Zealand in May 2018 to continue her studies leaving behind her mother and younger sister in Brisbane. She currently lives with her grandparents, aunties, and younger uncle. Tylah wanted to become a social worker as she aspires to build the bridge that helps young Pacific people overcome the stigma around mental health. She hopes to continue her journey within the mental health sector following her placement at Lotofale.



## Samantha Padden

### Abstract:

Piki atu ki te taumata o toku maunga, ka kite au I te mana, I te ihi o te whenua nei no oku tupuna. (I climb the summit of my mountain to see the lands of my ancestors).



This whakataukī mirrors the determination that was required to persevere for the collective fight of social justice, including legitimate recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, He Whakaputanga and the UNDRIP. Footprints of tupuna - a presentation that encompasses the personal as political and navigating walking through two cultures. Diving deep into her whakapapa Samantha learnt the mahi her tupuna had done and many tangata Māori also. As she contributes where she can as a Māori social practitioner with the skills acquired over these four years, she has learnt the importance of advocacy for social justice. During this presentation Samantha will also acknowledge the manaaki, aroha and tautoko of her whānau, values instilled in her which she will carry through to her practice.

### Biography:

Samantha Rae Te Wake Padden - She/her (Te Rarawa & Ngāti Awa) is a tuakana student of the Social Practice Bachelor's Degree programme at Unitec. Samantha's interests are embedded in working alongside wāhine Māori and tangata Māori, transformative change within systemic and organisational spaces, the care of our taiao and resurgence of indigenous sovereignty and reclamation globally. Samantha is interested in progressing towards doing her master's once she has some field experience. Ultimately Samantha is aiming to study a master's programme in either Indigenous healing practices or a programme in policy analysis and kaupapa Māori research.



## Sharna Te Haara- Faleolo (neé Tamatu)

### Abstract:

Ma te oho mauri ko mohio - By an awakening of the spirit comes understanding.



Tangata whenua - a term used to identify Māori people, people born of the land (Te aka, 2021). Growing up not knowing my pepeha nor my whakapapa lead me on a journey to self-discovery, understanding of colonisation and how it was my right as tangata whenua to break that cycle for my whānau and my moko. This presentation will explore the values now imbedded in me due to the social issues I have experienced in life. The findings of how my pepeha and whakapapa drives my understanding has led to a passion for social change within whānau who may have lost connection to their cultural identity and to focus on how important it is to regain that mana. I will provide an understanding of how I will implement what a Te Tiriti practitioner would look like through my lens when working in a Ministry who have done more harm than good to our Tangata Whenua. I will make the connection to the importance of where iwi and hapu stand in this setting. I will touch base on what the multiple benefits and outcomes of social justice should look like for whānau and where my waka of social practice will take me.

### Biography:

Ko Tongariro tōku Maunga

Ko Waikato tōku Awa

Ko Te Arawa tōku Waka

Ko Nakuhau tōku Marae

Ko Ngati te urunga tōku Hapu

Ko Ngati Tuwharetoa tōku Iwi

Sharna is of Niuean - Lakepa is my village, Pākehā and Māori - Ko Tuwharetoa rāua ko Ngai Tamanuhiri tōku iwi decent. She was born and raised in West Auckland and brought up by her maternal grandparents who imbedded the Polynesian values of hospitality, love, and respect. Sharna's background was in mental health and addiction and youth work, before she set path to study for her Bachelor of Social Practice degree where she discovered all that she needed to heal past and ongoing wounds for her and her whānau. Her drive to study social work came from the social injustice her whānau faced when going against the Ministry. Sharna starves to implement safe cultural practices from within the Ministry so whānau are safe, supported and their story is heard fairly. Her heart fights for justice and advocates for tamariki who are helpless in their position in life, however Sharna understands collective healing through a cultural lens and believes every child deserves to be with their whānau and connected to their whakapapa. Me mahi tahi tātou mo te ora o te katoa. We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone.

## Mele Tuipulotu

### Abstract: Ofa: An emblem of my journey

This presentation will tell the story of a New Zealand born Tongan women who experienced firsthand the systemic injustices and faced the many challenges of discrimination, inequality and racism. Being a New Zealand born Tongan and facing the discourses of being Pasifika has created a craving for a more understanding and knowledge on the Social Justice system and ways Mele can help her Pasifika and Māori people 'glow and grow' in a system that was not created for them. This presentation will allow you to briefly walk down the roads of Mele's journey and understand her passion for Social Practice as well as meet her inspirations along the way. Mele aspires to pave the way for the future generation and community in the way she serves as a Social Practitioner.



'Here to serve and not to be served'

### Biography:

Mele Tuipulotu also known as Cherry by many is a 25 year old Tongan woman who was born and raised in New Zealand (South Auckland). She is currently a fourth year Social Practitioner student at Unitec and is excited to have finally reached the end of her degree and be the first in her family to be a graduate. Her drive to becoming a Social Practitioner has been influenced by her upbringing, family, friends, community, and village. Regardless of being fortunate enough to be born and raised in New Zealand because of the resources, Mele still faced and witnessed the struggles of discrimination within her home and community. However, being a New Zealand born Tongan she developed an understanding of both the Pākehā and Tongan culture which helped her get through the western system whilst still upholding her cultural values and principles. Mele wants to be a practitioner who works alongside troubled youth and inmates who know nothing else but the 'bad boy' life, so they can gain a better understanding of the bigger picture and opportunities, to allow them to feel a sense of belonging in a society that has excluded them.

'Let all that you do be done in LOVE'

1 Corinthians 16:14

## Kalofiama Malakai

Abstract: Addressing inequalities faced by women

The inequalities that women of any culture face today in Aotearoa needs to be addressed in a manner where it is respectful and tolerable. As a Tongan woman where in my culture females are treated differently than males, applying into practise what I have learned so far in my studies in Social Practice will help to address the issue and hopefully change it for the better.

### Biography:

Kalofiama Malakai is of Tongan and Niuean descent and is a married mother of 10. She became a teen mother at the age of 19 and this has led her to be passionate about working to achieve social justice. She has learned about becoming a Treaty based practitioner and wants to advocate for young mothers or any mothers who have little to no support.



## Muminah Ahmed

### Abstract:

"Be the kind of person who helps others to find the important things they've lost in life. Their pathway, their smile, their hope, and their courage".



### Biography:

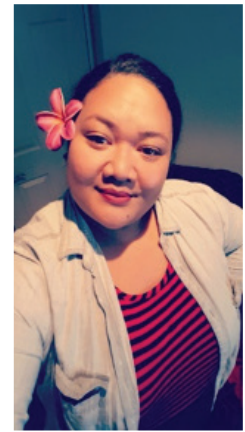
Muminah Ahmed is a fourth-year student finishing her Bachelor of Social Practice degree at Unitec. Throughout her journey as a student, she has developed a strong sense of advocacy for ethnic women and their children who are victims of family violence. Muminah wants to support people make a positive and significant change within their lives. She brings a positive cheerful demeanour that is infectious! She can establish quick rapport and goes far and beyond to help others despite their background and culture. Muminah dreams of looking into the mirror one day and being proud of her achievements and who she has become.

## Sally Collins

### Abstract:

"To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world" "You will never know the value of something until you lose it".

This saying resonates with me because I never knew how important my identity was as Samoan until I migrated here to New Zealand hence the reason I chose to base my practice framework on Siva Samoa or Samoan Dance. Samoan Siva is my way of reviving my culture in which I will be highlighting the graceful movements of the Siva Samoa which act as a metaphor for how I will implement it in my practice - underpinning my values and aspirations along with theories that I have chosen to inform my practice.



Prior to studying the Bachelor of Social Practice my understanding of social justice was very limited and was merely shaped by my upbringing. The inequalities and injustices I faced as a Pacific Islander ignited my passion to pursue social work. Moreover, understanding the importance of social policies on how societies operate gave me an insight as to where I position myself in addressing issues such as poverty, homelessness, and the impacts of colonisation. This has revealed their huge impact on the lives of Māori and Pacific people. Sally believes that justice for Māori means justice for all.

### Biography:

Sally is the youngest of six and was born and raised in Samoa. Before migrating to New Zealand, she sacrificed most of her teenage years caring for her aunty who was diagnosed with stage four Alzheimer's disease while juggling study at the same time. When her aunty passed away, she decided to migrate here to New Zealand for a better future.

One of the challenges she faced during the second and third year of her degree was making heaps of sacrifices while caring for her brother, cousin and uncle that were all diagnosed with stage four cancer and all passed away within a timeframe of two years while she was in the hospital caring for them. This made her aware of the importance of life. In relation to social work, she believes it is crucial that we are aware that people's lives are in our hands. Enhancing the mana of the people we work with will depend on the approaches we take. Hence the reason we should be mindful of the decisions we make for it can either make their situation better or worse.

## Benjamin Morley

Abstract: I Am Proud of You: Or how I am learning to crawl in an Olympic sprinting event

This essay covers my learning's of social justice, or lack of social justice, through my own lived experiences as well as my time at Unitec. Growing up in a home flooded with domestic abuse and poverty and living as an addict for the best part of ten years, I personally experienced what it is like to live on the edges of society. The essay will explore the idea that every living person deserves access to quality housing, healthcare, welfare, and nutrition. I will analyse my experiences through the lens that I have been gifted by my lecturers at Unitec.



## Biography

I am in my final year of the Bachelor of Social Practice; I also work in community mental health in the West Auckland area. I live in Avondale and am passionate about community health and youth work. I have a keen interest in the threads between policy and outcomes, particularly for our most vulnerable in our communities. I have worked in a variety of fields in the 'human services' sector and have previously completed a mental health qualification. I would like to be a small drop in the ocean towards the fight against capitalism and rapidly growing inequality.



## Cherlym Tanuvasa

Abstract: He waka eke noa

Her journey to becoming a social practitioner has been challenging, confronting, unlearning, decolonizing, rewarding and ongoing. Growing up in Aotearoa she was immersed culturally, within a Western society. Her childhood and lived experiences have influenced her journey in more ways than one. Her essay and short presentation will be through a lens of hardship, challenges, trauma, and injustices experienced by a young Samoan, European and Māori woman. Her journey through her Social Practice degree has helped navigate her own personal journey of self-discovery and healing which has shaped her and the future practitioner she is going to be. She will weave her understanding of her own cultures together- the Fa'a Samoa way, Te Ao Māori, Mātauranga Māori and Western influences – the navigation of multiple worlds.



### Biography:

Ngāti Porou, Nofoali'i and Lalomanu.

Chelym Tanuvasa is in the final semester of her Bachelor of Social Practice degree at Te Whare Wananga o Wairaka. Her Tupuna and ancestors have guided her through the past seven years of her studies as well as the tautoko from her fiancé, siblings, family, and friends. Seeing the resilience from a cultural perspective, for our people in a system that was set up for them to fail has guided her to challenge and navigate spaces through mana-enhancing practice and her commitment to Te Tiriti.

E hara taku toa, he takitahi, he toa takitini.  
O le ala o le pule, o le tautua.

# Martha Thomas

## Abstract:

### Te Hononga me te Hononga - Belonging & Connection

This future practitioner has a vision to empower, to connect and to create new pathways. Faced with the challenges throughout her life she brings to her social justice practice a stream full of life experiences. The purpose of this presentation is to give a glimpse into her life journey and the impacts which have affected her life since birth; abandonment, adoption, youth homelessness, domestic violence, single parenting, and living in poverty. The presenter will highlight impacts that have helped shape her future, which have fueled her hunger for social justice, and which makes her passionate about empowering those who long to belong and make that connection for change. A change for their future, their environment and for their descendants. The presenter concludes by exploring what her passion and practice will look like, and how her drive for social change will support her to develop as she further learns in the field.



## Biography:

Martha is a matariki fourth year student, on the verge of completing her Social Practice degree at Unitec. She is a proud single mother of seven, and strives to support her children mentally, physically, emotionally and with their future goals and dreams. Martha's life experiences influence her practice and passion to support those who like her have suffered the injustices and misfortunes that vulnerable communities have experienced. These experiences together with her discoveries in the degree already shapes Martha's practice and passion to support others for social change. Her dream is to empower whanau to accomplish what they never thought possible as illustrated by what she has achieved over the last four years. Martha also envisions achieving a leadership role in the future as one of her lifetime goals.

Martha trained and worked as a caregiver at the age of 17 volunteering at a local rest home for elderly adjacent to her college, St Mary's. Martha later went on to study and gained a national certificate in care of the older person, after she had worked in the same field for twenty plus years. Through the years she has seen a lot of injustices that older people experience and Martha believes that it is unfair for long time serving members of society to have to pay for accommodation, medical and support services. Martha believes that the older person is vulnerable to mistreatment but that there is no reason for neglect and abuse.

We are born into a torrent that challenges us

Like thunder our wellbeing is tested

Through trials and tribulations, we muster

We seek forgiveness, we seek revenge, we seek hope

Yet our soul is dying, we create pathways

Our curiosity makes us hungry

Our passion makes us stronger

Our successes make us complete

Our surroundings create a passion to change

## Erene Toia

### Abstract:

Ehara taku toa I te toa takitahi – my achievement is not mine alone.



If I could go back and show my 14-year-old self where we are now, she would never have believed that we are in the position that we are now. This presentation explores how the events and ideologies of my past have informed my future practice. My worldview of social justice is informed by watching and observing the world around me as a white-passing Māori wahine and a young mama. The past four years have been a process of unlearning, healing, understanding, and decolonizing. These themes will be interweaved throughout the short presentation and acknowledged throughout the essay. Despite easily being able to slip through the systemic cracks and become another Māori statistic, I am here today due to the people who believed in me and fought hard to support me on this journey and for that, ko taku toa he toa takitini.

### Biography:

Erene Toia is a 24-year-old mama of two boys. She is both Māori and Pākehā. Learning how to navigate both worlds from a young age has allowed her to work within mainstream systems while still upholding Mātauranga and Tikanga. Starting the degree, the only purpose that Erene believed she had was to fight the injustice she saw after losing her father to suicide because he didn't receive the help he desperately needed. She was driven to be the change she wanted to see. Nearing the end of her degree Erene now understands that her purpose is a lot broader than first imagined and she is inspired and invigorated for the road ahead.

## Megan Brown

Abstract: Superpowers or social work – using your power to fight for social justice



This presentation will give you an insight into the world of one Pākehā woman on her road to self-discovery and freedom from societal pressure and expectation. This bumpy road led the presenter to a deeper understanding of her own identity and how that identity was shaped from childhood. This presentation will tell the story of how childhood experiences gave her the power to fight for the things she values and believes in today. The uncomfortable topic of white privilege will be discussed and how this power can be used to fight for justice. To help in the fight against any injustice this presenter believes that you must have a deep understanding of who you are, where you come from and how this shapes your identity. This presenter believes the way you see yourself within society informs your practice as a social worker. The presentation will demonstrate how, as a Pākehā, you can use the power and influence you were born with to become an effective treaty-partner. This idea will be presented by means of a personal model of practice which integrates identity, values, goals, and aspirations in a way that incorporates Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This presentation will hopefully leave you wondering; what is my superpower and how can I use that to fight for good?

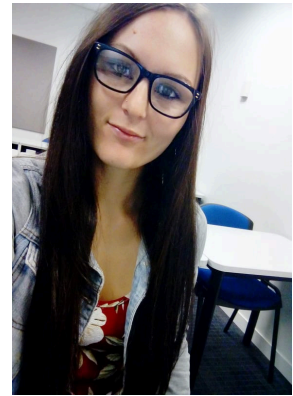
### Biography:

Megan is in her final year at Unitec, studying for her Bachelor of Social Practice. She left a job that she had worked at for over 11 years to return as an adult student. Having a higher level of education was important to Megan and her goals going forward. She is passionate about her fight for equality and believes in upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Her practice is based on decentring Western knowledge and working as an effective treaty-based partner to bring about change. Megan began her journey into social work to gain a better understanding of society and the strong role it plays in the way things are said, done and seen. While Megan is Pākehā, her eleven-year-old son is of Māori descent, her drive for social justice lies with him and his future. It is her son that gives her the confidence to go forward and ask those hard questions that can make people feel uncomfortable. He is her reason for change.

## Hannah Chapman

### Abstract:

From a social injustice victim to a social justice warrior:  
My journey through the system



The diversity of one's experience of social injustice is what forms our story. There are similarities in our journeys that we can relate to or form a connection with, but we will never truly understand the struggle of others. I dedicate my practice to children and families who have suffered injustices similar to mine, these are the ones for which I have built my practice and that has led me to where I am positioned in society today.

This presentation aims to explore how my lived experiences have not only built my desire to be a social worker but shaped the type of practitioner that I want to be. I look at the factors surrounding my uplift from my mum by Oranga Tamariki and the impacts of this on my identity. I will reflect on my values for practice as well as my learnings through the degree and my placement experience. In addition, I will critically analyse what Te Tiriti informed practice looks like for me and how I will uphold my obligation as a treaty-based practitioner to ensure decolonising practice. I will unpack where my commitment to social justice derives from and consequently how certain elements of this will feature in my practice. Lastly, I will examine how I will use my experience of being in the system as both a client and a practitioner to facilitate much needed change and underpin my future as a just practitioner.

### Biography:

My name is Hannah Chapman and I have two children, I am pregnant with my third child, and married to my husband Kirk. I am in the fourth year of my social work degree and aim to begin my master's in social work after working in the field for five years. This degree has helped me unpack how my journey has shaped my vision for myself as a practitioner and the type of practice I want to implement. This degree has also led me to my two closest friends who have supported and encouraged me more than they will know and not a day goes by where I don't value their friendship. I grew up in a shared custody arrangement between my mum and dad along with my two sisters. Although my upbringing was traumatic, I don't resent it as it has led to my passion and purpose of being a social practitioner. My goal is to be a voice for kids who are in a similar position to what I was. My drive to promote social justice and strive for equitable outcomes for those that are marginalised will aid me in my practice.

## Jameela Diallo

### Abstract :

#### The Endless Journey of the Self : A personal view on social justice



This presentation speaks to the lived experience of the presenter, their journey of self-discovery and the struggles of having their perspectives and ideas challenged and changed throughout their studies. The presentation identifies who the presenter is, where they identify themselves in society, what has led them to become an instrument of change, and what continues to give them inspiration. A special focus is placed on social justice and what this means to the presenter. These views on social justice stem both from what the presenter has learnt during their studies and placements, but also from the lived experiences of herself and those from whom she has been honoured to hear stories.

Drawing on the framework Te Whare Tapa Wha, this presentation will look at how the presenter can utilise the principles of this framework to help foster change within individuals, whanau and communities and minimise the effects and impacts of racial and social injustice on our young people, to create lasting positive change for the hauora of those she works with. The presenter leads her practice with collaborative, holistic and spiritual approaches to working with individuals, families and communities, particularly those of Māori and/or migrant decent. She understands the importance of Ko Wai Ahau, Whakapapa and acknowledging where we all come from and incorporates this into her practice as a centre point for strength-based practice with youth.

This presentation aims to outline my journey as both an individual and as a social practitioner. It will touch on the things and people that continue to inspire me and lastly, it will outline my aspirations as I step onto the path of being a social practitioner.

### Biography:

Jameela Diallo is in the fourth and final year of her Bachelor of Social Practice at Unitec Institute of Technology. Jameela is of African European descent, she was born and raised in Aotearoa New Zealand and has travelled to many places around the world such as Africa, India, United Kingdom, United States and more. Jameela has seen a lot of what the world has to offer both good and bad and hopes to one day be able to travel to other countries and engage in practice. Jameela has a strong passion for helping others and fighting for those who suffer injustices, advocating for change and creating spaces for people from all ethnicities and walks of life to feel safe and to be able to thrive.



Li Li 李丽



#### Abstract:

If you know from whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go

Li Li is a migrant from China and has been living in New Zealand nearly five years so far. Her presentation starts with where she comes from and who she is and ends with where she can go and who she is becoming. In the presentation, she shares her experience of how her voice was excluded in her children's schools when she first came to New Zealand because of the language barrier as a new migrant. She thus was inspired to empower herself by taking up this degree. Li Li then explores her personal and professional development on the journey of Social Practice studies. With the knowledge she gained from this degree, she finally is able to identify what is the real problem with her experience of being excluded - lack of cultural response in the school system and the absence of social justice, which frees her from self-blaming. She also shares the main components of her learning and how they inform her practice. Li Li particularly demonstrates her learning of Te Tiriti and social justice and her commitment to them. Rather than individual faults, in her perspective, all social problems are rooted in the absence of social justice. She thus commits to challenge all kinds of social injustice to empower and advocate for people who are vulnerable and deprived in her future practice. Li Li is further inspired now by her experience during her two placements, where she found she could empower others with the knowledge from the degree. She is becoming what she really wants to be and believes If you know from whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.

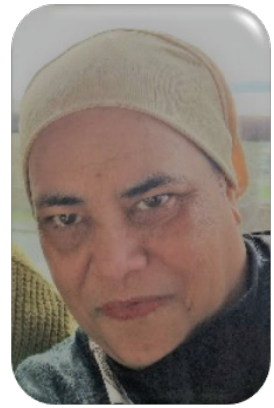
#### Biography:

Li Li already had years of career life in China, where she was born and grew up, as a qualified accountant before she came to Aotearoa. She was the youngest child in her original family, and she therefore was well looked after by her protective parents and three talented old brothers when she was little. Li Li had a decent job, two cute children and a nice family before coming to Aotearoa five years ago. Her life was considered perfect by people around her. However, she felt she was getting lost with a career filled with capital and profit. Finally, getting out of her comfort zone, with the purpose to discover another potential self she came to Aotearoa. She spent one and a half years in language schools first before starting the Social Practice degree. For her, this journey is not a simple learning experience, it is a journey of healing and self-salvation, where she finally discovers who and what she potentially can be and really wants to be - a qualified social worker to empower and advocate for vulnerable people.

## Faiza Gamieldien

### Abstract: Dying to be Me – the road to social justice

What is social justice? From my point of view social justice is a moral conscience, of what is right, just, and fair, which is demonstrated in society. Having respect and regard for people irrespective of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender, disability, or religious affiliation. It ensures the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. In a world riddled with crooked principles and ideologies, and self-serving leaders; social justice shines its beacon of hope. This presentation focuses on the effects of racism, discrimination, and poverty, and the resilience in coping with adversity. It highlights Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the steps taken to combat injustice and empower people.



### Biography:

Faiza Gamieldien's dedication to the elusive realisation of social justice can be traced back to her roots as a descendant of Javanese slaves, and her experience growing up during apartheid South Africa. Being exposed to racism, discrimination, and poverty has been her driving force to protect the marginalised and advocate for change. For nearly 30 years, she has worked in several countries as an intensive care nurse advocating for the rights of all people and to improve health outcomes. During this time, it became clear that the root cause for many hospitalisations could be traced to the social, economic, and political issues which affects people's daily lives. This has led her to pursue studies in social practice, to better tackle injustice.

## Ceilidh Dalbeth (Dent)

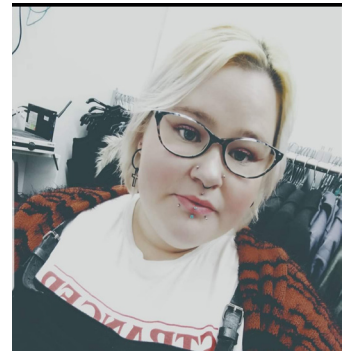
### Abstract – Looking back to move forward

It is through understanding our experience of social justice that we weave our own sense of self. We all have stories in our bones. The presentation explores how social inequity compromises many potentials.

It will demonstrate how a Tiriti based model of kaupapa Māori community development holds the potential to redress post-colonisation ills in Aotearoa. At the heart is our tamariki and all practice should give paramouncy for the safety and equity of all tamariki to thrive.

### Biography:

Ceilidh is a fourth-year student doing the Bachelor of Social Practice at Unitec. Born and raised in West Auckland, but her roots lie in Dargaville where her family is from. The desire to create a career in social work arose from her mother as a single parent of two children going back to study and qualifying as a social worker. This desire was also fed by a need to give a voice to the voiceless. Her dream is to work with children and their whānau to strengthen the protective factors that enable all children to thrive.



## Christina Green

### Abstract:

Standing in two worlds.

This presentation will follow Christina's personal experiences and how they have influenced her life and led her to the journey to study social practice. It will outline the learnings she has gained throughout those four years of study. It will look at how her practice will be Te Tiriti based and at her commitment to fight for social justice in her future.



### Biography:

Ko Hikurangi te maunga, ko Waiapu te awa, ko Horouta te waka, ko Ngati Porou te iwi, ko Christina ahau. Christina is a fourth-year student from Unitec Waitakere, working towards gaining a degree in Social Practice. Christina is of Māori and European descent. Being raised on the East Coast of Aotearoa in a predominantly Māori community gave her an insight into her future, where her reality was having to navigate the world through two lenses. She has a passion for helping others and is fiercely committed to helping support those who face oppression.

## Tracy Smith

### Abstract:

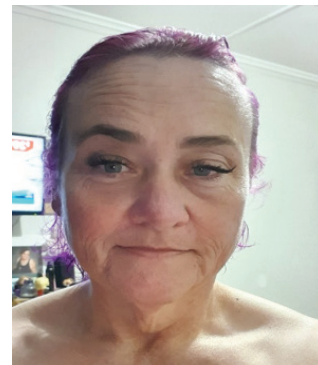
From Darkness into the Light: A journey of awakenings.

Tracy shares her story of how the loss of her husband in 2015 and her life experiences inspired her to study. Tracy's journey has been difficult at times due to her heritage and lack of knowledge or understanding of colonisation. This presentation will highlight Tracy's journey from a mature Pākehā woman to becoming a social justice advocate for all.

### Biography:

Tracy was born in England and moved to Aotearoa at the age of four. She has lived in West Auckland since arriving here. She is a mature student currently in her fourth year of Bachelor of Social practice at Unitec. Tracy is a widow who was married for 25 years when her husband passed away. She has six adult children ranging between 18 and 30 years of age, one daughter and five sons.

Tracy has volunteered all her life and is currently the club president for Ranui Swanson Football Club. Tracy is passionate about advocacy and working with others, especially within the mental health sector so people can find their tino rangatiratanga and be given the whakaute they deserve.



## Anna Mwaijumba (Muyunda)

Abstract:

Imbuto: Watering the inactive seed.

Biography:



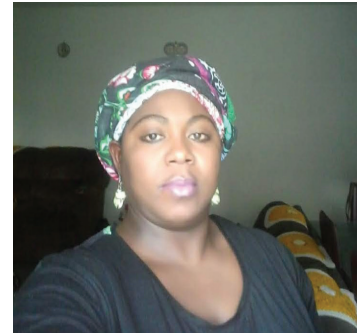
Anna Mwaijumba is a woman of colour of Zambian-Angolan origin and a recent graduate of Unitec's Social Practice Degree. During her four-years of study, she allied herself to constantly explore various disciplines in order to broaden her own understanding of Social Work. Her current interests are centred on collaborating with whanau to promote children's health, development, and relationship with their whanau, while also monitoring the child's environmental safety.

As a recent graduate, she will use the most up-to-date knowledge and practices that are currently available, as well as practical experience gained from working with a diverse range of whanau and organisations.

When asked to describe herself, Anna quickly responds, "I am first and foremost a mother to Nanjeke and Dofilia."



# Beatrice Ngurinzira



## Abstract:

My life experience leading me toward social justice.

My experience of being exposed to social injustice enhanced my intuition of the impact of injustice on a personal level. This presentation will highlight the origin of my principles, my life experiences that have strongly inspired and influenced my journey into the social work profession. My commitment to Te Tiriti O Waitangi and the challenges that I may face in my future practice will be shared in this presentation.

## Biography:

I am a woman, a mother proud of being African and originally from East Africa. I was born and raised in Rwanda from parents who are mixed from different countries. My father is originally from Burundi and my mother is half Burundian and half Congolese (Democratic Republic of Congo). I am the fourth child of eight children, married and a mother of two. I grew up in a home that had a huge and strong influence from Roman Catholicism. As a child, we were taught to help others in need and always be respectful toward our elders. My parents kept reminding us to always stand for the truth and listen to other people's story before judging them, but most importantly to respect people. I can say that I grew up with a deep passion for helping others. From a very young age the values of respect, resilience, reciprocity, and service to others were instilled in me by my parents and elders in my community and I still carry these with me today.

## Gayde Tayler

### Abstract:

Feels like a lifetime

This presentation outlines my personal journey through the last four years. I unpack where my motivation for social work derives from. Next it showcases how my values and ethics have developed with the aid of all the learnings I have gained in Unitec and through my own wider experiences. I explore my understanding of what being a treaty-based practitioner looks like in my shoes and my personal understanding of how social justice impacts on social work. Finally, this presentation maps out which aspects of all the information I have learnt over the past four years will impact on my future practice as a social worker.



### Biography:

My name is Gayde Tayler (preferred name Jayde Taylor). I live with my partner Jono and our dog Hercules. I started this journey as a social work student in 2018 and have not looked back since. I have found my passion for working with children and plan to get a job in that field when I graduate in 2022. There have been many bumps along the way, but with each hurdle I have grown stronger and learnt from it. One of my biggest learnings is how to navigate through complex situations and difficulties with people. I am so thankful to have had the opportunities to meet two of my closest friends in this course and to have their support throughout this degree.

## Mikayla Joyce

### Abstract: He Māori Ahau

This presentation will describe my experiences under the term 'Half-cast', 'Haawhe Kaaihe' or 'Afakasi' as other polynesian cultures call it. It will entail my journey in finding my true whakapapa and the struggles that potentially made me fight harder to continue my journey.



Focusing on how inequality can shape one's thoughts and feelings, positively or negatively. The presentation will also acknowledge the path of finding social work and how much that has influenced my principles into what they are today and how that carries with me when doing work under the tikanga and awhi of te Tiriti o Waitangi. And lastly, it will tell of my whakaaro around Social Justice and what that means for my practice now and in my future.

### Biography:

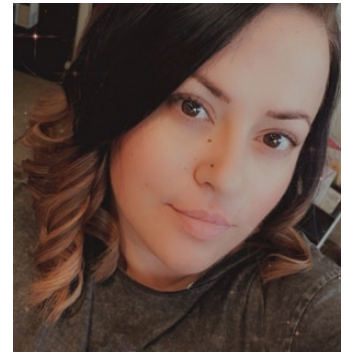
Kia Ora! My name's Mikayla and I'm a 22 year old wahine Maori. My experiences being involved in the mental health system and of being a Maori and Pakeha has inspired me to work towards a better system for those walking through a government/westernised process. The reason for joining social work as it resembles the work of my Maori ancestors who once fought for a better life for those who succeeded them contributing to the desire to make this possible for those succeeding me. I am the only one so far who has attempted and continued a university degree and that has motivated me to get to the finish line despite the challenges of academia and well, life itself.

## Samantha Wilson

### Abstract:

"Teka tae noa ki a reka - Fake it till you make it"

Being a teenager and growing up in a single parent household showed Samantha the inequality women face in Aotearoa and the struggle her mother faced trying to study a Bachelor of Social Practice to better her own and her children's lives. The purpose of her presentation is to outline what pushed her to choosing the social practice pathway, her self-discovery as a Pākehā woman, the privilege she has and how she can use that privilege to help others. It will include what social justice means to Samantha, what social justice looks like in social practice, and show how the last four years have contributed to her understanding of social justice. The presentation will also describe her Treaty Based Model – Ngātahi and how to utilise this model as a Tangata Tiriti bi-cultural practitioner. This presentation also acknowledges Samantha's fear of sharing her story and how it might highlight her own ignorance of the privilege she did not know she had until she started the degree. Furthermore, the presentation will show that incorporating her personal values and beliefs, to support and encourage others with their self-discovery journey, is necessary for her future bicultural social work practice.



### Biography:

Samantha is in her final days of the Social Practice Degree at Unitec, Waitakere and is soon to set out into this wild world, to walk alongside others in their journey. Samantha's colourful past has led her to wanting to help others with the challenges that she has faced and some she continues to face. Your past mistakes or life's hurdles are not meant to define you, but to guide you and they have guided Samantha in the direction of being a social justice warrior fighting for equality for everyone. Throughout the degree Samantha has been drawn to tamariki through numerous assessments she completed about tamariki and the challenges they face, but also through the challenges she faces as a single mother raising a strong-willed little girl and trying to protect her well-being. Samantha has a strong passion to help tamariki and their whānau and is set to finish her final placement in the coming weeks with Oranga Tamariki – Ministry of Children, where she hopes to gain full-time employment in the new year through their graduate program.

