

Marae Visit

Aug  
2025

# Noho Marae - Waipapa Marae, Auckland

**Organised by:** NZ Federation of  
Multicultural Councils & Auckland  
Council Welcoming Communities



**Supported by:** HOPE Worldwide-  
Pakistan



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Marae Visit

# Project Summary



On 9 August 2025, HOPE Worldwide-Pakistan brought newly arrived refugees and migrants from South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan—many sponsored under the CORS programme—to the Noho Marae cultural orientation at Waipapa Marae, University of Auckland.

## Objectives

To foster cultural understanding, social inclusion, and a sense of belonging among newly arrived refugees and migrants by introducing them to Māori culture, traditions, and community connections in Aotearoa.



## Marae Visit

# Event Outcome

The event was a success, with newcomers warmly welcomed, gaining their first marae experience, deepening understanding of Māori culture, and feeling a stronger sense of belonging in their new community.



## Event Highlights:

- Traditional powhiri (welcome) ceremony by Tangata Whenua.
- Sharing of stories between Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti.
- Workshops on te reo Maori, tikanga (customs), and cultural values.
- Kai and hospitality fostering a sense of belonging.
- Increased cultural understanding and social inclusion.

## Feedback

P- "I felt truly welcomed into New Zealand for the first time." - Afghan participant

- "Now I understand Maori culture better and feel more confident in my new community." South Sudan participant

# Issues & Challenges



## Problems Encountered:

- Language Barriers: Some participants required interpretation to fully engage with the programme content.
- Transport Logistics: Coordinating travel for families and individuals from different parts of Auckland.
- Cultural Adjustment: For some newcomers, initial unfamiliarity with marae protocols required extra guidance and reassurance.



## Resolution Steps:

- Language Support: Arranged interpreters / bilingual volunteers to assist participants throughout the program.
- Transport Planning: Organized group transport / provided travel assistance to ensure all participants can attend.
- Pre-Event Orientation: Conduct short cultural briefings to familiarize newcomers with Marae protocols and expectations.

# Conclusion

- The Noho Marae program proved to be a meaningful step in the settlement journey of newly arrived refugees and migrants, offering them cultural knowledge, community connections, and a sense of belonging. By fostering mutual respect and understanding between newcomers and Tangata Whenua, the event strengthened social inclusion and reinforced HOPE Worldwide-Pakistan's commitment to building cohesive, connected communities in Aotearoa.

