



Bilingual AVP Resources

Adapting training materials for Aotearoa New Zealand

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Facilitators of the Alternatives to Violence Programme (AVP) are encouraged to adapt and localise the AVP International training materials to their social, cultural and educational contexts and faith practice. We describe how we have been adapting our AVP training practice in the Eastern Bay of Plenty and making use of bilingual Te Reo Māori / English training materials.

Background

The Whakatāne AVP Team has been delivering AVP across the Eastern Bay of Plenty for nearly two decades and is constantly seeking committed volunteers to join our team. There are a number of iwi in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, and several rural communities speak predominantly Te Reo Māori.

There are four fluent speakers of Te Reo in our team of trained facilitators. Others are able to converse comfortably in Te Reo. Discussions with Māori AVP participants have revealed excitement at the possibility of (a) extending AVP training into their communities; (b) developing AVP Facilitator Guides and Participant Activity Resources in Te Reo; and (c) writing bilingual English and Te Reo AVP agendas in training sessions. The AVP manuals and resources have been translated into different languages throughout the world (most recently Samoan and funded by QPS Aotearoa). The question thus posed by our AVP Eastern Bay team is: why not here in Aotearoa New Zealand?

As a Society of Friends, we acknowledge and recognise our coexistence as treaty partners and the diversity and inclusivity within our society as Friends and citizens of Aotearoa. With this in mind, **we invite AVPers throughout Aotearoa to contribute their ideas to this important peace making kaupapa** – adapting and localising AVP and developing bilingual training materials. *Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi* (with your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive).

Previous participants have already provided a Māori translation of the Transforming Power Mandala. The bilingual mandala now sits at the centre of every AVP circle. They also translated the AVP song into Te Reo. We have adapted two exercises on consensus and forgiveness, using historical and current analyses of our shared histories and

positioned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We have also developed a set of bilingual 'Feeling Faces' resources that incorporate images of the multiple ethnic groups that make up Aotearoa New Zealand today, and which include both Te Reo and English words.

What's next?

An AVP International Team is currently reviewing and updating the AVP Training Manuals. So, we are not wanting to 'simply' translate the existing AVP Manuals into Te Reo. Instead, we have applied to QPS for support to compile and translate materials that have already been adapted and to develop new localised resources. Any ideas for contributing resources you may have developed or offers to support the kaupapa, please contact either Esther ecm2412@gmail.com or Graeme graeme.storer@gmail.com

Note: Since 2019, members of the Whakatāne AVP Facilitation team have also been supporting the establishment of AVP in Samoa. A description of this work ('Restoring Peaceful Pathways in Samoa') will appear in an AVP International publication later this year. The book, *Alternatives to Violence Project Around the World*, will include chapters describing how AVP has been conceptualized and implemented in a variety of political, economic, and social contexts.

