Right to Repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

A Seminar in support of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
March 4-5, 2020

Carine Ayélé Durand
Ethnographic Museum of Geneva
Un musée Ville de Genève
www.meg-geneve.ch
Panel 6
Good practices
• What makes for a successful repatriation process and relationship?
• How have indigenous peoples, states, and museums worked effectively together?
• What happens when sacred items and human remains return home?
• How do museums and indigenous peoples work together in productive ways?
1. Strategic Plan 2020-2024
2. Repatriation
3. Relationships
Investigate both equitable exchanges and interculturality from a translocal perspective.
MISSION

Challenge cultural assumptions, practices and representations with the aim of facilitating decolonization while directing attention to the future.
Final restitution of the mokomokai (ref. 024 584) lent by the Musée d'ethnographie de Genève to the National Museum of New-Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, by Agreement of 20th May 1992

Dear Mr. Minister,

Following various exchanges over the last years between the Te Papa Tongarewa, the Musée d'ethnographie de Genève (MEG), the New Zealand Permanent Mission in Geneva and the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, we are pleased to inform you that the members of Geneva City Council have unanimously approved to return the mokomokai (ref. 024 584) to the Maori people.

Since the 20th May 1992 Agreement, the mokomokai has been preserved in the Te Papa's Wahi Tapu on a long-term loan basis. As from today, it is scored out of the MEG's collections and officially returned to the Manati Taonga.

Hoping this contribution to the Karanga Actearoa Program will send a strong signal to other States, we remain yours sincerely

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The Director-General: ____________________________

The Mayor: ____________________________

Copy to: Messrs. Michael Houlihan and Arapata Hakiwai
Helen Ganalmirriwuy and Ruth Nalmakarra, two Aboriginal women artists from the Milingimbi Art and Culture Centre, Rosita Holmes coordinator of the centre and Louise Hamby of the Australian National University visit the MEG storage facilities. September 2018

Workshop/seminar held with Museum Staff, September 2018
RELATIONSHIPS

Roberta Colombo Dougoud consulting with elders at the Milingimbi Art and Culture Centre. April 2019

Milingimbi Art and Culture Centre’s general database. April 2019
Acknowlegements
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