



‘Maori Haka’ in the Parliament

In a historic moment within New Zealand's political arena, a 21-year-old Māori Member of Parliament delivered a compelling inaugural speech by initiating it with the traditional 'Maori Haka.' Commencing her address to the parliament with this indigenous ceremonial war dance, she symbolized her profound dedication to the people and their values.

Her presentation sought to challenge the established norms, addressing the longstanding issues of racism in New Zealand's history. The Maori community, having endured colonisation, land dispossession, and cultural suppression, remains at the forefront of these historical struggles.

Nevertheless, performing the Haka without invitation can be viewed as a gesture of disrespect towards non-Maoris. Considering the colonial context surrounding the resurgence of the Haka, the assimilation of Maori culture into the broader society remains a concern for local leaders.

Do you think that engaging in tribal performances in parliament is a breach of parliamentary ethics? What measures do you propose to safeguard tribal rights in the face of growing modern values?

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