

# ISABELLA FRANCIS

*SHE/HER*

**APPLYING FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER**

My name is Isabella and I'm about to graduate from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and Sociology. I'm nearly 22 and I identify as queer (she/her pronouns). I moved to Auckland for university, from a small town in Northland, where I was one of only a few openly queer teenagers. In my free time I like to write, do yoga, and cook elaborate meals. I'm passionate about the right of all people to a happy, fulfilling life that is free from prejudice and discrimination.

## **What made you want to join the RY board?**

I want to be a RainbowYOUTH Board Member because I would like to get more involved with my community, the rainbow community. I believe in the right of all young people to be happy, healthy, and supported on their journey to adulthood. RainbowYOUTH contributes to this vision by supporting young queer and gender diverse people to attain their full potential and providing safe spaces and education for them, and I love that. By being part of the RainbowYOUTH Board, I could contribute to RainbowYOUTH with the skills that I have, like governance and strategic planning.

## **RainbowYOUTH is on a journey to proactively and respectfully uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. How would you contribute to this journey?**

As part of my studies in Sociology, I have studied Te Tiriti o Waitangi and colonisation. The chief responsibility of organisations and the government under Te Tiriti is partnership, to uphold the right of Māori peoples and communities to self-governance. As a Pākehā woman, I believe that it is important to begin with a foundational understanding of Te Tiriti and the repercussions of colonisation, in order not to bring damaging perceptions to conversations. However, I think being open to learning more and changing behaviours (and organisational policies) as opportunities arise is one of the most important personal qualities for committing to upholding Te Tiriti, and I am committed to always being open to learning about Te Tiriti and the effects of colonisation.

## **What particular skills do you think you have that would make you suitable for the RY board?**

I've had experience in governing youth organisations before, as the Queer Rights Officer on the Auckland University Students' Association. This also gave me practical experience in working with queer youth (university students) and understanding of sensitively working with many different groups of queer people. My experience with Aotearoa Youth Declaration (a four-day civics education conference for youth from around Aotearoa New Zealand) also gave me skills in strategic planning, especially regarding youth education. I was also on the Science Students' Association and helped lay the foundations by

contributing to the Constitution and long-term strategic planning. I've had lots of experience participating in meetings and working in a team, including with the groups mentioned above, as well as more generally in my worklife with out-of-school care programs and as an Ambassador for the University. I believe strongly in the power of productive discussion (or kōrero) and actively listening and engaging to come to a consensus, so I enjoy having robust and respectful discussions at meetings.