

TUNISIA NAPIA

THEY/THEM

APPLYING FOR CO-CHAIR, SECRETARY, TANGATA
WHENUA REP & GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Kia ora koutou katoa! Kō Tunisia Napia ahau, nō Ngāpuhi ahau, he roia ahau, he kaitakawaenga ahau, he takatāpui ahau, rua tekau mā whā ōku tau.

Hi everyone! My name is Tunisia, I am a 24-year old Ngāpuhi from Northland. I am queer and genderqueer. I am a lawyer, specialising in commercial dispute resolution, and a professionally qualified mediator, who also coaches university students in negotiation, advocacy and communication skills. My guiding core values are love, childlike wonder* and growth. I am passionate about serving others through leadership, influencing positive cultural change, and mentoring our rangatahi.

*eg I am a huge fan of dinosaurs.

What made you want to join the RY board?

I am keen to use my skills to support the Rainbow Youth kaupapa and the people whose lives touches. Last year I was fortunate enough to able to attend the Rainbow Youth 30th birthday gala. Being in such a supportive environment with such a diverse group of people, even for just that short time, enabled me to better understand myself and the world around me. Truth be told, it was one of the main experiences that enabled me to come out as genderqueer (to myself and) to others, the very next week! My friends and colleagues who have done pro bono work with Rainbow Youth or have been on the Rainbow Youth Board have further inspired me to get amongst.

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

I was a kōhanga baby, whose first language was Māori. I was raised in tikanga Māori, and later in life completed a degree in Māori studies (through which, thankfully, I was able to regain some of the reo I had lost when I went into the mainstream schooling system as a child). I would love to be able to help increase the use of, and respect for, te reo mē ōna tikanga within Rainbow Youth and the community.

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

I have expertise in complex strategy, problem-solving and conflict resolution. As co-chair of my firm's ethnic diversity and inclusion committee, I facilitate meetings, listen to people's needs, and launch, run and front initiatives towards positive cultural change. As a member of my firm's LGBTTQI+ and socio-economic diversity and inclusion committees, I also contribute as a supporter to those around me. I aim to be a good leader, as well as a good supporter of good leaders.