



Board Nominee – 2019

Alison Anitawaru Cole (Ngāruahine, Ngati Ruanui)



Alison is originally from Porirua and grew up aspiring to contribute to rangimārie after her koro's experience at Hiroshima during WWII. He taught her the art of whakairo and the importance living according to the values of Te Ao Māori.

Alison became a member of Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand while at high school. She has recently worked with the Amnesty International Secretariat to develop new digital human rights investigation methods in her role as the Asia-Pacific Coordinator with the Berkeley Human Rights Center and Hong Kong University's Human Rights Hub.

She holds a first-class BA honours degree in law from Cambridge University, a graduate degree from Harvard Law School, and she is currently completing a PhD at Amsterdam University. Alison is a registered New York attorney, and is also admitted to the Lincoln's Inns of Court in London.

Alison is one of the few people in the world who has worked at all the United Nations international criminal tribunals, covering a range of responsibilities at the Rwanda Tribunal, the Former Yugoslavia Tribunal, the Cambodia Tribunal, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the International Criminal Court.

Following these positions, Alison worked in policy development at the Open Society Justice Initiative in New York where she developed human rights strategies with local and global partners, including activists in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, Kenya, India, Malawi, Mexico, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Senegal, Tanzania, Ukraine, Zambia, and on death row in Jamaica. Alison also worked as an adjunct professor at New York University Law School and has written a wide variety of publications, including front-page coverage for The Guardian.