

Travelling overseas and foreign interference

When travelling overseas some people may face foreign interference through additional scrutiny from foreign authorities, including from their security and intelligence agencies.

It is important to remember that most travellers may not experience this, and that scrutiny at borders is common worldwide, usually routine and not related to foreign interference.

People who may be subject to additional scrutiny related to foreign interference include:

- people who have been targeted in New Zealand
- community members who are known to have dissenting views or are critical of foreign states
- community leaders, advocates and activists
- community members who travel for family, community, or business reasons
- community members who work for the New Zealand Government, local government councils or are elected officials in New Zealand
- community members who work in other key sectors, for instance, critical infrastructure, academia, media
- former refugees.

People may face risks depending on the country, such as:

- **being unnecessarily questioned** by local authorities, for example about travel plans, activities, or connections
- **being denied entry or exit**, such as being refused boarding on flights or entry at border checkpoints
- **having travel or visa restrictions imposed**, including limitations on movement within the country
- **having electronic devices searched**, including phones, laptops, or other devices, which could involve accessing personal information or communications
- **targeted surveillance, detention, or imprisonment after arrival**, which may include formal legal action

- **experiencing intimidation, harassment, or threats** from local authorities
- **being subjected to questioning, harassment or intimidation by local groups**, not just by law enforcement or authorities.

New Zealand consular assistance

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) provides consular services to New Zealand citizens outside of New Zealand, even if they don't normally live in New Zealand.

Consular assistance is not generally provided to New Zealand Permanent Residents.

New Zealanders overseas are subject to local laws in the other country, including that country's laws governing detention, prosecution, or restrictions on travel.

Dual citizens

Holding dual citizenship may affect New Zealand's ability to provide consular assistance. When in the country of other citizenship, local authorities may treat the person only as their citizen and not allow New Zealand involvement.

You can find more information on Safe Travel: [Dual citizens and permanent residents](#)

Refugees and former refugees

If you are a refugee outside of New Zealand, there are significant limitations to the support that the New Zealand Government can provide.

You can find more information on Safe Travel: [Refugees and former refugees](#)

SafeTravel NZ

[SafeTravel NZ](#) is the official MFAT website for New Zealanders travelling or living overseas, offering travel advice, consular services, safety tips, and a registration system for travellers.

Travellers should **register with** [SafeTravel New Zealand](#) before going abroad. This helps MFAT provide timely updates, contact travellers if needed, and offer assistance where possible.