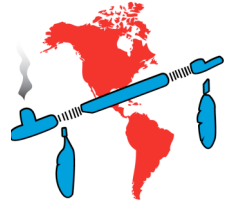


International Indian Treaty Council



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“This training was like planting a seed which can grow into something strong and good for our community”.

“Please continue to fight the good fight, and thanks to you and all who are working tirelessly on these issues.”

These are the words of two Indian elders and cultural rights activists following International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) human rights trainings held recently in Northern California and Sonora, Mexico. We are very appreciative of this encouragement and thankful for the enthusiasm and active participation of Indigenous Peoples in workshops carried out by IITC in tribal communities in the US and abroad. For the past 35 years we have worked to protect Indigenous Peoples rights, empower indigenous voices, and promote the values of our elders. Your support has been invaluable to our success.

A continued priority of our work is the implementation of the **United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007. Our human rights education, training and capacity building programs put tools in the hands of local communities to make this a reality.

The **legal and technical assistance** we have provided to communities to address urgent human rights violations has saved lives and raised these issues in the international community. We have trained and assisted communities to collect testimonies, file cases and make urgent action submissions to UN bodies on issues including defending sacred sites, cultural practices and right to food; health impacts of toxics on communities and environmental justice; land rights; and justice for human rights defenders.

IITC also provides direct access for Indigenous Peoples to have their voices heard by international bodies and representatives. On November 1, the UN Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Adequate Housing will visit the Pine Ridge reservation. IITC has worked with a U.S. coordinating body to ensure that this first-time mission would include a visit to Indian Country.

Our **Food Sovereignty** work demonstrates the tangible relationship Indigenous Peoples have with the traditional foods that sustain them. These relationships include nutrition and health, ceremonial practices, language, songs, identity, creation stories, land and resources, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, subsistence rights and ways of life, and transmission of traditional knowledge to future generations.

We continue to work to address the impacts and develop solutions to **climate change**. Globally the extinction of plants and animals is increasing as habitats change. The practices of hunting, fishing, gathering and farming are also threatened which can devastate cultural identities and livelihoods. This year, we served on the steering committee for the historic *Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change* in Anchorage, Alaska, which brought together more than 400 indigenous delegates from around the world to network and develop strategies to stop the degradation of Mother Earth. During this year's UN Human Rights Council, we were invited to participate in four international panels to discuss the human rights impacts of climate change on Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous perspectives on the Right to Food. This is recognition of IITC's expertise of working within international bodies and our work to empower Indigenous voices in human rights dialogues.

The North-South Indigenous Network Against Pesticides project continues to bring together Indigenous leaders and activists from impacted communities in North and South America to work together to reduce the affects of **toxic pesticides** on the their health and environment. IITC is currently coordinating an international seminar to bring together Indigenous women from the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and Aotearoa (New Zealand) to share information and build strategies to address the devastating impacts of environmental toxics on reproductive health rights and the well being of our future generations.

We are asking you to support the work of IITC by making a financial or other contribution. For those of you who have supported us in the past, we are asking that you consider increasing your support. Your donations are tax deductible and we receive no government funding. We are committed to keeping our administrative costs to less than 15% so the bulk of your donation goes directly to programs to defend human rights, build community capacity and protect our Mother Earth. We also make available upon request to our donors, our annual fiscal report. In this current fiscal climate and the reduction of foundation support for human rights work, your support is especially needed.

Please join us in this work to protect Indigenous cultures, human rights and Mother Earth for all of our future generations. You can write a check to IITC and send it to the IITC Administration Office, 456 N. Alaska St, Palmer AK, 99645. You can also make an online donation via Pay Pal, donate frequent flyer miles, make a donation/gift in a friend or relative's name, or do planned giving. You can also support us when making purchases on eBay by using Mission Fish. Finally, you can stay informed about our work by signing up for our monthly e-news, which reaches more than 4000 recipients with urgent actions, updates, events and opportunities for involvement. You can donate and sign up for our e-news at www.treatycouncil.org.

We greatly appreciate your friendship and support, and we send our very best wishes and prayers for a blessed fall and winter season for you and your families.

Sincerely,



Andrea Carmen, IITC Executive Director