



# TAKE ACTION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE U.S.



GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OTHERS INTERESTED

IF YOU HAVE

10  
Minutes

- **Learn.** Read our fact sheet and take our short quiz on the rights of indigenous peoples at: [www.discoverhumanrights.org/rights\\_of\\_indigenous\\_peoples\\_in\\_the\\_us.html](http://www.discoverhumanrights.org/rights_of_indigenous_peoples_in_the_us.html).
- **Sign.** Show your support for the rights and well-being of native peoples, in your region or around the world, by signing one of the many petitions at: [www.culturalsurvival.org/take-action](http://www.culturalsurvival.org/take-action).
- **Read the DRIP.** Read the full text of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at: [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf).
- **Vote.** Support candidates in local, state, and federal elections that are actively working to implement the rights of indigenous peoples in the United States.

IF YOU HAVE

A Few  
Hours

- **Host a film.** Raise awareness and take action by hosting a screening of a film on indigenous rights and issues, such as the film *Reel Injun* by Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond, which explores how Hollywood has affected the way we look at indigenous peoples. For a list of independent films on Native American issues, please visit: [www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/native-american/](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/native-american/).
- **Educate.** Download this toolkit, including the lesson plan, to teach about the rights of indigenous peoples in the U.S. at your school or community.
- **Attend a powwow.** Powwows are demonstrations of Native American cultural heritage, an exercise of indigenous right, and are usually public. Information on powwow etiquette and where to find one is available at: [www.meyna.com/powwow.html](http://www.meyna.com/powwow.html).

IF YOU HAVE

A  
Month

- **Visit.** Go to the sites of historical events in your area involving Native American peoples. See whether the educational materials accurately portray indigenous involvement or persecution, and compare them to the accounts from native groups.
- **Replace Columbus Day.** Rather than attending Columbus Day festivities, find out about counter-rallies for Native American rights or spread awareness: [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=i15hwpdjMcg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=i15hwpdjMcg). In addition, recognize the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 and Native American Heritage month in November in the United States.
- **Read a book.** Read about indigenous issues. Suggestions by Native American writers include *Recovering the Sacred: the Power of Naming and Claiming* by Winona LaDuke, *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past* by Diane Wilson, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie, or *What Does Justice Look Like?* by Waziyatawin.

IF YOU HAVE

A Year  
or More

- **Think local.** Learn about native peoples in and around your own community. Lobby Congress or take other action on issues important to local tribes.
- **Start a book club.** Form a group to read and learn about indigenous rights and facilitate discussion on the issues. Search for books on tribes in your area or around the world.
- **Share your skills.** See the heading "Volunteer" at: [www.culturalsurvival.org/get-involved](http://www.culturalsurvival.org/get-involved).
- **Campaign.** Receive a newsletter including dates and times of events such as demonstrations and vigils at: [www.survivalinternational.org/news/enews](http://www.survivalinternational.org/news/enews).



# RESOURCES ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE U.S.



## Alaska Federation of Natives

[www.nativefederation.org/about/index.php](http://www.nativefederation.org/about/index.php)

The largest statewide native organization in Alaska. They work to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the Alaskan Native community.

## American Indian Policy Center

[www.americanindianpolicycenter.org/](http://www.americanindianpolicycenter.org/)

Its mission is to provide government leaders, policy makers and the public with accurate information about the legal and political history of American Indian nations, and the contemporary situation for American Indians.

## Bureau of Indian Affairs

[www.bia.gov/](http://www.bia.gov/)

The U.S. government agency responsible for providing services to federally recognized tribes.

## Center for World Indigenous Studies

[cwis.org/](http://cwis.org/)

A research and education organization “dedicated to wider understanding and appreciation of the ideas and knowledge of indigenous peoples and the social, economic and political realities of indigenous nations.”

## Cultural Survival

[www.culturalsurvival.org](http://www.culturalsurvival.org)

An organization devoted to supporting the cultural rights of indigenous peoples around the world and safeguarding them against cultural extinction.

## Honor the Earth

[www.honorearth.org/](http://www.honorearth.org/)

A Native-led organization providing both financial and organizing support to grassroots Native environmental groups.

## International Day of the World's Indigenous People

[www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/](http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/)

A U.N.-sponsored international day on August 9 to encourage celebration and recognition of indigenous peoples worldwide.

## International Indian Treaty Council

[www.iitc.org/](http://www.iitc.org/)

An organization working for the self-determination of indigenous peoples, recognition and protection of indigenous rights, and protection of traditional cultures and sacred lands.

## International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

[www.iwgia.org/](http://www.iwgia.org/)

An international human rights NGO working on the various human rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to territory, self-determination, control of resources, and cultural integrity.

## Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages

[www.livingtongues.org/](http://www.livingtongues.org/)

An institute for language documentation, maintenance, and preservation. Living Tongues works to record endangered languages worldwide and encourages their continued use and revitalization.

## National Congress of American Indians

[www.ncai.org/](http://www.ncai.org/)

The “oldest, largest, and most representative” organization serving the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities. It works for American Indian treaty rights, health, and welfare, and education to the public about American Indian issues.

## Native American Rights Fund

[www.narf.org/index.html](http://www.narf.org/index.html)

A law firm defending native rights worldwide. They focus on preservation of tribal existence; protection of natural resources; promotion of rights; accountability of governments to Native Americans; and development of Indian law.

## Native American Times

[www.nativetimes.com/](http://www.nativetimes.com/)

The largest independently owned Native newspaper in America, with a readership of more than 60,000 per week.

## Tribal Law and Policy Institute

[www.tribal-institute.org/](http://www.tribal-institute.org/)

A non-profit that provides education, research, training, and technical assistance to promote justice and the health, well-being, and culture of native peoples. Provides a clearinghouse of resources on tribal justice systems, service providers, and others involved in the improvement of justice in Indian country.

## Survival International

[www.survivalinternational.org/](http://www.survivalinternational.org/)

An organization focused on preserving the rights of tribal peoples worldwide. Their work is built on the assumption that tribal peoples know what is best for themselves.

## United Native American Housing Association

[www.unaha.net/](http://www.unaha.net/)

A common interest association of Native American tribes, tribal housing authorities, and tribally designated housing entities united to promote the common goal of the provision of safe, sanitary, affordable, and habitable housing for Native Americans.

## White Earth Land Recovery Project

[nativeharvest.com/](http://nativeharvest.com/)

A project to facilitate the recovery of the original land of the White Earth Indian Reservation and promote cultural, spiritual, and linguistic heritage and responsible land use among its members.