

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

Indigenous knowledge is critical in solving the climate crisis. That's why it's a bit ironic that the livelihoods of indigenous peoples have been under pressure for centuries, and still are under pressure today.

There is only one indigenous people officially recognized in the European Union - The Sami people - that traditionally resides in the Sapmi area in the north of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Even though this is the only indigenous people residing in Europe, there are many indigenous peoples being affected by our continent; the actions of the EU and European countries in the global market have a huge impact on the lives of indigenous peoples across the globe.

Therefore, a;

Europe that is in line with indigenous rights across the globe should ensure that

- All trade agreements by the EU and by European countries must respect the rights of the indigenous communities directly or indirectly affected in the counterpart and possibly in neighbouring states. This must entail respect for ILO Convention 169 alongside core human rights conventions. Furthermore, these indigenous communities must be consulted and represented in the discussions and evaluation of the agreement either by a representative or, where possible, a collective or council representing them
- All foreign investments in industries by European countries and the EU must respect the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (ILO Convention 169)
- Indigenous peoples are an important group for funding in international development policies and should be promoted
- Non-Self-Governing Territories' right to Independence referendums worldwide should be supported

Europe is to ensure the rights of its indigenous populations by

- Ensuring that the EU and its member states ratify the ILO Convention 169
- Prohibiting construction in indigenous lands if it would damage or restrict access to lands culturally or religiously important to indigenous communities, or negatively affect their environment, health, livelihood or other rights in any way. The evaluation of any project should be done in consultation with possibly affected indigenous

communities either by a representative or, where possible, a collective or council representing them

- Supporting the dissemination of indigenous knowledge, culture and history in Europe and areas that are colonized by Europe
- Funding projects by the state or civil society organisations that increase the knowledge of- and usage of indigenous languages. This includes the teaching of indigenous languages as part of school curriculum.
- Allowing The Sami People to freely migrate within the Sapmi area, regardless of the official country borders
- Supporting the Nordic Sami-council and encouraging all countries with indigenous land to create an indigenous council
- Increasing funding for research on indigenous language, culture and history
- Depositing EU grants earmarked to strengthen national and ethnic minorities directly to minority organizations instead of through the Member States



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