

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on CULTURAL RIGHTS



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO FORCED ASSIMILATION OR DESTRUCTION OF THEIR CULTURE. THEY ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE AND REVITALIZE THEIR CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS. THIS INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND DEVELOP THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THEIR CULTURES, SUCH AS HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES, CEREMONIES, TECHNOLOGIES, ARTS AND LITERATURE. - ARTICLE 8, 11

CULTURE IS ESSENTIAL TO INDIGENOUS IDENTITY. INDIGENOUS CULTURES ARE BASED ON THE CONCEPTS OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS, SELF-HUMILITY AND MUTUAL SUPPORT FOR ONE ANOTHER. THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLES AND MAINTENANCE OF CULTURAL INTEGRITY ARE THE PRINCIPLES THAT BIND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER AND ENSURE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS.

- EXCERPTS FROM "ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' PERSPECTIVES ON DEVELOPMENT"



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO DIVERSITY AND DIGNITY OF THEIR CULTURES, TRADITIONS AND HISTORIES. THEY ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH AND CONTROL THEIR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES AS APPROPRIATE TO THEIR CULTURAL METHODS. THEY AND MAINLY THEIR CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO ALL LEVELS AND FORMS OF EDUCATION OF THE STATE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. FURTHER, THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN MEDIA IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES AND HAVE ACCESS TO ALL OTHER FORMS OF MEDIA WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. - ARTICLE 14, 15 & 16



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO MANIFEST, PRACTICE AND DEVELOP THEIR SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO USE AND CONTROL THEIR CEREMONIAL OBJECTS. FURTHER, THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACCESS AND THE RIGHT OF HAVING THEIR HUMAN REMAINS AND CEREMONIAL OBJECTS RETURNED. - ARTICLE 12



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN, CONTROL, PROTECT AND DEVELOP THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF THEIR SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OVER THOSE ASSETS. STATES NEED TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECTS THESE RIGHTS. - ARTICLE 31



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO REVIVE, USE, DEVELOP AND TRANSMIT THEIR HISTORIES, LANGUAGES, TRADITIONS, PHILOSOPHIES, WRITING SYSTEMS AND LITERATURES TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN THE NAMES OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, PLACES AND PERSONS. - ARTICLE 13

STATES NEED TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TOGETHER WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO:

- PROVIDE REDRESS, INCLUDING RESTITUTION FOR THE CULTURAL, INTELLECTUAL, RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL PROPERTIES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TAKEN WITHOUT THEIR COLLECTIVE INFORMED CONSENT OR IN VIOLATION OF THEIR LAWS, TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS;
- ENABLE THE ACCESS AND/OR RETURN OF THEIR CEREMONIAL OBJECTS AND HUMAN REMAINS IN THEIR POSSESSION;
- ENSURE THE TRANSMISSION OF THEIR HISTORIES, LANGUAGE, TRADITIONS, PHILOSOPHIES, WRITING SYSTEMS AND LITERATURE, INCLUDING RETAINING THE NAMES OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, PLACES AND PERSONS;
- PREVENT AND END FORCED ASSIMILATION OR INTEGRATION AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM AND PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD RELATIONS AMONG THEM AND OTHER SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY;
- GUARANTEE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS FOR THEM, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, IN THEIR OWN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE, INCLUDING FOR THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THEIR COMMUNITIES;
- ENSURE THAT STATE-OWNED AND PRIVATE MEDIA AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATELY REFLECT THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CULTURAL DIVERSITY; AND
- ENSURE THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES UNDERSTAND AND ARE UNDERSTOOD IN POLITICAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES BY PROVIDING INTERPRETATION OR THROUGH OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE ENTITLED TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN IDENTITY OR MEMBERSHIP ACCORDING TO THEIR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT TAKE AWAY THEIR RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP OF THE STATES IN WHICH THEY LIVE. - ARTICLE 33

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN THEIR INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND THEIR DISTINCT CUSTOMS, SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES AND EXISTING JUDICIAL SYSTEMS CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS. - ARTICLE 34



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