



# International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

9 August 2022

Join Graduate Women International (GWI) in celebrating Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge and working in partnership with Indigenous women for a sustainable future.



While Indigenous Peoples own, occupy, or use a quarter of the world's land, they **safeguard 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity**. They hold vital ancestral knowledge and expertise on how to adapt, mitigate, and reduce climate and disaster risks. *(The World Bank 2022)*

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9 August each year to raise awareness about protecting the rights of the world's Indigenous populations as well as to recognise the achievements and contributions that Indigenous Peoples make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. The day was designated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in December 1994, marking the day of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. Today, GWI aligns with the UN to mark this day with an emphasis on the 2022 theme: "The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge".

There are an estimated **476 million Indigenous Peoples worldwide**.

Although they make up just **6%** of the global population, they account for about **19%** of the extreme poor. *(World Bank 2022)*

Over **86%** of Indigenous women, work in the informal economy. *(ILO 2022)*

Globally, **53.5%** of Indigenous women in employment have no formal education, a much higher rate if compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts (17.8 per cent). *(ILO 2022)*

The lack of clean, safe drinking water in Indigenous communities is one of the greatest violations of the UN-recognised human right to water and sanitation. *(The Council of Canadians)*

Around the world, the **systematic cultural genocide** of Indigenous Peoples has taken place over decades. This genocide is the underlying cause of the contemporary **murders and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls**. *(The Conversation)*



Graduate Women International (GWI)  
Empowering women and girls through lifelong education  
since 1919.

Join a GWI affiliate today at  
[www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

© 2022 Graduate Women International



# International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

9 August 2022



## Call for action

GWI calls on states to participate in the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge, particularly Indigenous women and girls, in decision-making processes, in order to move towards sustainable development for all. Indigenous women are suffering from extreme poverty, gender-based violence, unequal access to education, land, natural resources and employment, which are crucial to their survival. Respecting and promoting their collective rights to their lands, self-determination, and consent is vital to strengthening their role as agents of change. States must empower Indigenous women and girls, through listening and learning from them and working together to create a sustainable world.

**GWI Resolution**  
**Education for Indigenous Peoples**  
 (2013, No. 9)

"National Federations and Associations (NFAs) should urge national, provincial, state, territorial and Indigenous governments to work together to create a system of accountable, funded and quality education."



- GraduateWomenInternational
- @gradwomen
- @gradwomen
- Graduate Women International

Join a GWI affiliate today at [www.gradwomen.org](http://www.gradwomen.org).