

## Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

June 19, 2017 La Red de Información y Documentación sobre la Sostenibilidad de los Pueblos Indígenas (RIDSPI)/Documentation and Information Network for Indigenous Peoples' Sustainability (DINIPS) [info@sostenibilidadindigena.org](mailto:info@sostenibilidadindigena.org)

Our Mother Earth cleanses us from violent pollution and her waters renew us as we recover from violent penetration. Our ancestors strengthen us and elders give insights on strategies for victory learned from generations of sexual violence in conflict. Indigenous women share this strength and insight with the world.

Human rights-based sustainability is the best way to end sexual violence in conflict, as those focused on sustainability minimize conflict. Empowering women by including us in sustainable development negotiations will directly reduce sexual violence in conflict. Sustainability means joint law enforcement beyond national jurisdictions and national chauvinisms that disregard indigenous jurisprudence. Truly international law enforcement coordination includes indigenous governments. Productive peace negotiations include indigenous women leading Peoples to peace.

If the financial community, including the World and Regional Banks, will stop funding trafficking and arm sales, and 'waiving' the rights of indigenous women, we can end this multigenerational colonial tradition of sexual violence in conflict. We can end rape in war by defunding unsustainable development and war profiteers.

Decolonization can cleanse colonized communities of destructive foreign traditions, including rape. The UN can fulfill its founding principle of decolonization by accepting data provided by indigenous governments on sexual violence in conflict. Exploration of this data in the spirit of decolonization will enable the UN community and Indigenous Peoples' governments to work internationally to investigate conflict-driven sexual violence to protect potential victims, help survivors recover, and cooperate with indigenous governments to put safeguards in place on a case-by-case basis.

Many rape survivors heal by addressing the root causes of sexual violence in conflict: CONFLICT. Peace begins with dialogue and respect for human rights. We invite the international community to provide legal advocacy instead of relying on the Member States claiming to represent rape survivors to provide their legal advocacy. Often these Member States are distracted by conflicts driving rape and their attention follows videos of people bleeding and killed, not the rapes occurring without media attention, nor real-life women surviving quietly with rape. The international community can support Member States in conflict arrive at peace by empowering rape survivors, especially indigenous women, to lead peace negotiations and support communities surviving low- and high- intensity conflicts.

We call on the international community to prioritize implementation of UNGA Resolution 61/295, Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to start by using the FAO Free Prior and Informed Consent Manual as directed by the concerned Indigenous Peoples. Forced development is closely linked to forced sexual contact<sup>1</sup>. Conflict is closely linked to lack of negotiations for access to resources. At the High level dialogue on January 24, 2017 UN Secretary General António Guterres said, "We need a global response that addresses the root causes of conflict and integrates peace, sustainable development and human rights in a holistic way, from conception to execution." Indigenous women surviving conflict-related rape report our availability to the UN for such an effective response to end and prevent conflict and the sexual violence that comes with it.

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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous women: the face of Latin America's most silenced injustice. Georgina Nicoli July, 03, 2016 - 17:57. <http://www.progressio.org.uk/blog/empowered-blog/indigenous-women-face-latin-america%E2%80%99s-most-silenced-injustice> ;

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