

OUR PRIORITY ACTIONS

OUR PLEDGE TO INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLE

We pledge to honour and advance the rights of indigenous and tribal people by:

- Enabling effective lifelong learning
- Building awareness through partnerships
- Advocating for civic representation

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### PRESENTATION SISTERS AND FRIENDS OF NANO WORK AMONG INDIGENOUS & TRIBAL PEOPLE IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES:

Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, India, Zimbabwe, Slovakia, Latin America and USA.

**PAKISTAN** - Sr Shumaila with  
a Kutchi Kolhi woman



**THAILAND** - Sr Jancy delivering a programme on health to village women,  
of the Lahu and Akha tribes and Thai Yai (Shawn migrant workers).

**South India** - Sr Sudha with a women's  
group from the Irullar community



In the past, Sisters in New Zealand & Australia ministered directly to Indigenous people. Nowadays they and Friends of Nano collaborate with others in promoting and advocating for the rights and interests of the Māori & Aboriginal natives, supporting the revival and development of the Māori language and culture in New Zealand.

In Western Australia they have developed and delivered Aboriginal cultural awareness training for community services. A scholarship scheme set up by the Presentation Sisters in Queensland, funds annual Aboriginal Tertiary Scholarships with the Australian Catholic University and Broken Bay Institute.

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PLEDGE 1

- **ENABLE EFFECTIVE LIFELONG LEARNING:** To engage with schools and communities to provide access to education and ongoing effective lifelong learning to indigenous and tribal people that acknowledges and honours them and their cultural traditions.

SDG 4, TARGET 4.5: *“Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.”*

The **UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP)** is an international instrument adopted by the United Nations in 2007, to enshrine, (according to Article 43), the rights that *“constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous people of the world”*.

UNDRIP Art. 14.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

UNDRIP Art. 14.2: Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.

UNDRIP Art 14.3: States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

UNDRIP Art 15.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.

[UNDRIP E web.pdf](#)

PRESENTATION SISTERS, HAVE A LONG HISTORY IN THE PROVISION OF QUALITY EDUCATION WHEREVER THEY MINISTER

SLOVAKIA – EDUCATING INDIGENOUS ROMA

In Spišské Podhradie, Slovakia, Presentation Sisters working among Roma people, saw how they were segregated in outlying local villages and towns, without education or work opportunities, while the local people were hard working and trying to make ends meet. So inevitably a lot of prejudice and division arose among both groups.

The Sisters discerned that a Pre-School would be the bed-rock of future educational achievement.

In 2004, they opened the *Nano Nagle Care and Learning Centre* to serve as a base for Roma education – catering for children from 3 – 7 years, most of whom could not speak the Slovak language as they have their own Roma language.

They are helped to master the basic skills needed for entrance to public school and learn the Slovak language. The Sisters aim to provide quality educational programmes and services that promote new understandings and awareness of issues of human rights.



PHILIPPINES

In 1997, Sr Evelyn Flanagan started the Badjao ministry project in the Philippines. The Badjao were peace-loving sea nomads but they were very much discriminated against. The young Badjao children were not able to adjust to the culture of public school and were dropping out.

Sr Evelyn she set about opening a Presentation Preparatory Pre-School exclusively for them. This was officially opened in 2008. Here the children are helped to master skills needed for public school e.g. learning the dialect of the majority and ensuring they attain the skills of basic literacy & numeracy for public elementary school.



AGENDA 2030 - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 inter-linked global goals, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, which are designed to be a blueprint to achieve a more sustainable, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous future for all. They aspire to bring about a world free of poverty, hunger and disease, where the environment is protected, where all have access to quality education, decent work and given a voice in decision-making in all that affects their lives and in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality. This ambitious and global vision pledges to “leave no one behind” and “reach the furthest behind first”.

It is the kind of vision that could make a difference to the lives of over 370 million Indigenous and Tribal Peoples worldwide. People who have historically suffered grave injustices, still face discrimination, marginalization, exploitation and exclusion. Even though evidence shows that great strides have been made in eradicating global poverty, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples are still among the poorest of the poor.

Their traditional ways of life and livelihoods are increasingly under threat from a wide range of factors, including lack of recognition and protection of their rights, exclusionary public policies and the impacts of climate change. In many places, loss of access to traditional lands and natural resources, discrimination in the world of work, lack of opportunity and forced migration have left the majority of them hugely disadvantaged in social and economic terms.

Indigenous women, in particular, are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination and exploitation from both within and outside their communities.

OUR IPA UN ADVOCACY FOCUS (2020-2022) has been on the ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Several of the **SDG 5 targets** call for the elimination of all forms of discrimination, exclusion, violence and harmful practices against women and children.

ARTICLE 22 OF UNDRIP, adopted in 2007, calls on States to “*take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination*”.

Agenda 2030 under the SDGs framework offer a historic opportunity to address such issues and ensure that indigenous and tribal peoples’ human rights are respected and ensure they are no longer left behind.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(Danish Institute for Human Rights)

This guide illustrates the human rights anchorage of the 17 SDGs targets and the relevant:

- *International and regional human rights instruments*
- *International labour standards*
- *Key environmental instruments - some of which have human rights dimensions*

[The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals | Linking human rights with all Sustainable Development Goals and targets](#)

PLEDGE 2

- **BUILD AWARENESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS:** To engage with organisations and partners to promote and participate in activities that honour the voices of indigenous and tribal people.

SDG 17 Indicator Goal 17.17.1 : Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships by 2030.

UNDRIP Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

LAUDATO SI #146: “. . . it is essential to show special care for Indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. . . . they should be the principal partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed.

PRESENTATION SISTERS IN SOUTH INDIA AND THE ROTARY CLUB

Sisters in Church Park, Chennai in South India working with the *Irullar* tribal community in 22 villages since 2002, have formed a partnership with the Rotary Club to enable ongoing skills-training and employment opportunities to the men and women of the tribe.



PARTNERSHIPS IN THAILAND

Presentation sisters in Thailand work with three groups, Lahu and Akha tribal people and with Thai Yai who are Shawn migrant workers. The Sisters focus specifically on sustaining and improving the quality of life for women and children through holistic healthcare, education, pastoral care, teaching of religion to school going children in the villages, interfaith dialogue with Buddhist neighbours and works of peace and justice.

They have always worked in partnership e.g. from 1999 to 2019, in collaboration with the PIME Italian Missionary priests. Currently, they are collaborating with the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharam. They also strengthen their networking and collaboration with the *Health, Women and Ethnic Commission* of the Chiang Mai Diocese, with District police who are invited to give awareness on anti-drug day for the children at the Mission Centre and work with other religious congregations e.g. with Good Shepherd Sisters, on human trafficking awareness and capacity building.



PRESENTATION SISTERS COLLABORATION IN FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

There is a long history of Presentation involvement with the indigenous Community in Fargo and throughout the upper Midwest in the USA. In the mid-1950s, the Sisters began mission work on reservations in North Dakota, Montana and South Dakota. Since the 1980s the Sisters' *Peace and Justice Office* in Fargo has been addressing a range of social justice issues for Indigenous People. These included working for the provision of better health care, networking to establish a social detox centre, supporting a protest movement against the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline which threatened Indian reservations. A collaborative annual event called '*Rejuvenation*' where local justice and peace groups collaborate and share concerns. Indigenous issues have been included in these concerns.

In 2018, when a young pregnant indigenous woman was brutally murdered after her baby was cut from her womb, the **Fargo Social Justice Collaborative** collaborated with the Indigenous Community to develop a *Murdered and Missing indigenous Women's* Task Force that continues to this day.

In 2021, the local Indigenous Association contacted an Interfaith Group and the Presentation Social Justice SCJ to ask *Where are the Churches?* and invited them to begin working with them on the newly emerging issue of the tragic Boarding School experience. Eighteen Presentation People participated in listening sessions with Native American people who shared stories about the



impact on them as individuals, as family and as tribes. An informal *Remembrance and Healing* group has now begun organizing events to increase awareness of this untold story and work towards healing and reconciliation.



*'Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women's Walk'
in Fargo on May 5, 2022*

image: unsplash.com

GLOBAL NETWORKING

<https://www.iwgia.org/en/network.html> - **IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs** - a global human rights organisation dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending indigenous peoples' rights.

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/> **Cultural Survival** works toward a future that respects and honours Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance.

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/> **Survival International** fights for Tribal Peoples' survival. It stops loggers, miners, and oil companies from destroying tribal lands, lives and livelihoods across the globe. They lobby governments to recognize indigenous land rights.

PLEDGE 3

- **ADVOCATE FOR CIVIC REPRESENTATION:** To advocate for indigenous and tribal people to be effectively represented at local and global civic levels.

PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

SDG 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

SDG 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

UNDRIP Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

UNDRIP Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

SISTERS IN INDIA train adult men and women in leadership and communication skills, which enable them to advocate for their rights and get their basic needs met. Children's Parliaments are very active. Here groups of children are trained to voice their concerns and needs to village decision-makers.

Sr Sudha, South India, in discussion with a Children's Parliament





Awareness training is provided for men, women and children on the SDGs and various government schemes. They are trained in leadership and communication skills, so that they are able to approach the Government for schemes and services, at first supported and accompanied by a Sister.