



# International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge



**DAY OF PRAYER**

**9th August**

## Opening prayer

Creator God,  
We Praise you for the richness of the races of people, language and culture. On this day of the indigenous people, we thank you for conserving and promoting the various of life and nature through the Original People.

We ask your forgiveness for the harms done to the custodians of Sister Earth. We ask your blessings on the peoples of First Nations specially the women who are the custodians of tradition and knowledge. Amen.

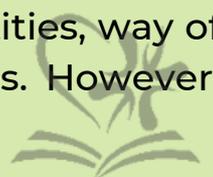


## History

There are some 476 million indigenous people living in 90 countries. They represent just over 5 per cent of the world's population, yet they are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, accounting for 15 per cent of the poorest.

Indigenous peoples have inherited and practice unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They also retain social, cultural, economic and political traits that are distinct from those prevalent in the societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, indigenous peoples around the world share common problems in protecting their rights as distinct peoples.

Indigenous peoples have for years sought recognition of their identities, way of life and rights to their traditional territories and natural resources. However, throughout history, their rights have always been violated.

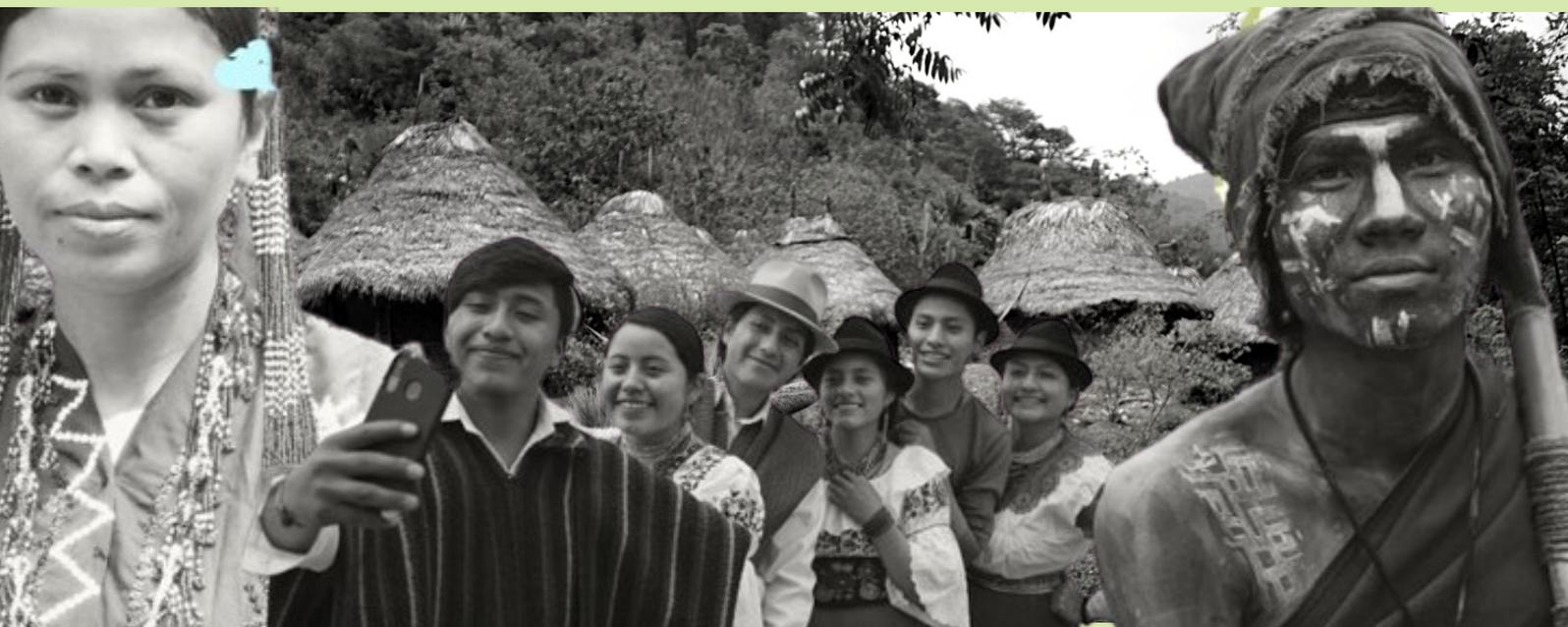


Today, they are undoubtedly among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in the world. The international community now recognises that special measures are needed to protect their rights and sustain their cultures and ways of life.

To raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, the International Day of the World's Indigenous People is commemorated every 9 August in recognition of the first United Nations working meeting on indigenous people held in Geneva in 1982.

## The United Nations and the defence of indigenous rights

On 23 December 1994, during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution A/RES/49/214, that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People should be observed every year on 9 August. This date commemorates the first meeting, in 1982, of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.



## Indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda

Indigenous peoples were involved from the outset in the global consultation process on the 2030 Agenda and, thanks to their mobilisation efforts, the resulting framework makes explicit reference to their development concerns and is based on the principles of universality, human rights, equality and environmental sustainability, all of which are core priorities for indigenous peoples. (*International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021, 9 August.* <https://www.un.org>)



## Indigenous women and Traditions

Languages play crucial roles in the daily lives of people, not only as a tool for communication, education, social integration and development, but also as a repository for each person's unique identity, cultural history, traditions and memory. Despite their immense value, the indigenous languages around the world continue to disappear at an alarming rate. In order to promote the indigenous languages the decade from 2022 to 2032 is declared as International decade of Indigenous Languages (<https://en.unesco.org/idil2022-2032>).

Indigenous women are the backbone of their communities and they play a crucial role in the preservation and transmission of traditional ancestral knowledge. They are the carers of natural resources and the keepers of scientific knowledge. Hence the International Day of Indigenous people 2022, is celebrated under the theme 'The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge'. This theme is step towards the realisation of the objectives of decade of indigenous languages. On August 09, 2022 at 09-11 am EST/New York Time, the UN is organising a virtual meeting. The following is the link for those who want to join it:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81206090975>

## Bible Reading: Luke 4, 16-22

**"He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his custom, and stood up to read. They handed him the volume of the prophet Isaiah, and he unrolled the volume and found the passage where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'."**

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"Our founder, like some prophets and saints, came to understand his mission and so from a very early age he was troubled and worried when he thought about where all the souls of sinners were going and also about the salvation of men all over the world. This same feeling pursued him throughout his life and he understood the passage of the prophet Isaiah: The Spirit of God is upon me, and he has anointed me to preach the Good News (Is 61, 1). Claret felt impelled to make God's love known to all people, with the urgency of thinking about what God's will is.



The experience that we have in the Congregation is the proclamation of the Word of God to all people, especially to the simple people or those who feel abandoned, we live united to that Spirit of God who urges us to take the Word of God to those brothers and sisters of ours who, because of the differences in society, have been made vulnerable by a materialistic and self-sufficient system, of consumption and centred on technology that has been dehumanising people.

God's invitation to us in this text is to remember what we have been created for and to be concerned for the salvation of all people, that they may have access to God's mercy and understand themselves as his beloved children, that they may feel that God's hand has touched their lives and calls them to fulfil their mission in life, sharing not only their faith, but their commitment to others". *(Commentary taken and adapted from Claretians Mx page)*

## Prayers of petition

- May the Mother Earth who sustains our very life be blessed by God.

**Response: There shall be life in abundance.**

- May the leaders of all countries listen to the wisdom of the Native peoples for the sustainability of the planet earth.**Response:**
- May the Original People of our lands be blessed and protected.  
**Response:**
- May the languages, cultures of the First Nation People be revived.  
**Response:**
- May the forest, which is the home of the indigenous people, be protected. **Response:**

- May all the people, especially the vulnerable indigenous people, who suffer from Covid-19, be healed. **Response:**
- May the rights of the indigenous women be fostered that they may continue to transmit their culture and language. **Response:**
- May there be conversion among the extractive companies who exploit and plunder the natural resources. **Response:**
- May there be conversion in the colonial attitudes of the Church. **Response:**
- May the Claretians around the globe, work prophetically for the integral ecological conversion. **Response:**



## What can we do?

- Know and support the priorities of the indigenous peoples, proposed in the 2030 agenda.
- Respect and welcome the idiosyncrasies of the indigenous peoples in the light of the Gospel and our charism.
- Raise awareness of the declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Work for the eradication of all forms of discrimination against indigenous women.
- Support the implementation of the declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples in particular in the countries where they are found.

## Prayer

For the closing prayer listen to song: Indigenous of Kairoi  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFLC-5zJeOQ>)

