

# INDIGENOUS, TRIBAL AND UNCONTACTED PEOPLES POLICY

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## PREAMBLE

Indigenous and Tribal Peoples are ethnic groups who are the original or earliest known inhabitants of an area, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied, colonised or invaded the area more recently. Indigenous and/or Tribal Peoples and/or Uncontacted Peoples are also known by place-specific names: as First Peoples, First Nations, Aboriginal Peoples, Native Peoples, or Tribal Peoples. The indigenous are also mistakenly labelled by their lifestyles, including: herder/pastoralist; hunter-gatherers; nomadic/semi-nomadic. by Civil society organisations have noted the presence of Indigenous Peoples in isolation in the Asia and Oceania regions, in countries of India, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.<sup>1</sup>

Indigenous Peoples' social and governance strengths include: collective decision-making; resilient self-governance systems; strong advocacy and activism; treaty-making and diplomacy traditions. Indigenous economic and survival strengths include: sustainable livelihoods; trade and exchange traditions; enterprise development; and self-reliance and adaptability. Indigenous resilience and rights movements demonstrate a history of survival through adversity; global solidarity networks; legal recognition of rights; and strong youth movements as demonstrated through climate change actions and #FreePalestine movement.

## VISION

The Greens' vision as Greens is commitment to the fundamental right to self-determination for all Indigenous and Tribal Peoples guided by their First Custodian Inherent Sovereignty in all consensus decision-making, with free, informed and prior consent for the longevity of our planet, its biodiversity, and all its Peoples. Also, the Greens recognise Indigenous, Tribals and Uncontacted and Tribal Peoples' cultures, spiritual beliefs, economic and social systems, and their wisdom and role as First Custodians of their Land, Water and Sky resources.

## OBJECTIVE

Despite international recognition and acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the fundamental rights of all human beings, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' human rights still require specifically designated safeguards. The Greens' objective is to enact laws at all levels of government so that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples do not continue to face serious threats to their sovereignty, health, lives, and way of life, including: political and sovereignty; cultural and social; economic; environmental and climate; health and wellbeing; global and systemic.

## ACTION PLAN

The Greens want to ensure that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Uncontacted Peoples are respected, their land claims recognised, and the physical, social, cultural, emotional, economic, and spiritual effects of colonisation in many countries are healed to create a society where everyone thrives. Therefore, the action plan is to encourage people to strengthen their bonds and support for Indigenous, and Tribal and Uncontacted Peoples, and to improve their rights and abilities to survive culturally and economically. Therefore, the Greens will –

## **Traditional Rights**

- Recognise the inherent rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and support their self-determination and self-governments; and entitle the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, like others, to all rights without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- Respect Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' cultural practice rights to hunt, fish and gather native flora and fauna sustainably in accordance with traditional cultural practice.
- Support local and national representative bodies of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples as independently determined by those Peoples.

## **Sovereignty**

- Respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands and respect all inherent sovereign rights that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' title to Land entails, including the right to stewardship.
- Acknowledge that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have a unique inherent relationship with their Lands, Waters and Sky through their cultures, and to assist the reimplementation of these rights and obligations as First and Cultural Custodians with respect and practice.
- Recognise that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples often have identities and aspirations that are distinct from the so-called mainstream groups in societies and are often disadvantaged by contemporary models of mitigation, adaptation, and development; and respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous and Tribal communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

## **Treaties**

- Uphold responsibility, fulfil responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government; and establish an independent body that will decide on specific claims, ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted and financed fairly and that treaty negotiations and claims resolutions do not result in the extinguishment of Indigenous rights.
- Ensure that primary hunting, gathering, fishing, and rights for ceremony on traditional lands are intact and able to be practiced.
- Support full implementation of treaties where they exist while recognising those treaties do not go far enough, and supplementary self-government agreements between government and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples may be required.

## **UN Provisions**

- Adhere to and embrace all Articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); and implement the UNDRIP and reform all judicial, legislative, and executive branches of the federal government so that they are consistent with the UNDRIP and other UN Declarations.
- Welcome and implement a genuine nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous and Tribal Peoples that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.
- Protect Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' assets and intellectual property through local, state and national laws

## **Heritage**

- Ensure that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have decision-making powers over their heritage; and ensure items of cultural heritage are returned to and managed by their rightful owners and custodians; and support Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' claims for the return of ancestral remains and artefacts.
- Ensure Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have a fundamental role in land and heritage management; and end forced assimilation as the purpose of it is to eradicate cultures, languages, and traditions; and give Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' cultures equal weight with other cultures in educational social systems.
- Protect cultural and intellectual property rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, including rights to practise and revitalise their cultural traditions, customs and languages; and make available local languages and cultural interpreters in courts, hospitals, clinics, and government meetings when needed.

## **Discrimination**

- Oppose racial discrimination, which is defined as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.
- End discrimination in schools and workplaces.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination protections, and access to such protections for the particular situations affecting Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

## **Reconciliation**

- Address the unfinished business of conciliation/reconciliation and actively pursue eradication of personal and institutional racism through support for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' organisational and grassroots approaches.
- Reconcile and provide restitution for colonial relations marked by violent expropriation, displacement, and forced assimilation that have undermined the cultural, governance, social, emotional, spiritual and economic foundations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.
- Support efforts to emerge from cycles and positions of disadvantage; and make Indigenous and Tribal Peoples equal partners in setting national policy priorities.

## **Environment**

- Recognise Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' vital role in environmental management of their Lands, Waters and Sky through their traditional knowledge and practices.
- Include Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in population, development and environmental programmes that affect them, such as Indigenous/Tribal ranger programs and other employment opportunities where appropriate.
- Enable Indigenous and Tribal Peoples to re-manage their Lands, Waters and Sky to protect the natural resources and ecosystems on which they depend.

## **Health and Wellness**

- Mainstream health services and prioritisation of programmes to improve Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' preventative health and children's health; and fund health facilities for adequate access for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' populations; and deliver health services, including mental health services, to Indigenous and Tribal communities.
- Support health-care services incorporating traditional practices; and include the role of extended families and elders in holistic health care.
- Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, mental health services and treatment for common diseases.

## **Education**

- Teach Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' languages in schools and ensure that it is resourced appropriately; and ensure the right to education, including education on human rights, cultural identities, languages and values; and ensure children of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have the right to their own cultures, beliefs and languages; and ensure equality of outcomes for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples on all major indicators of education, training, housing, community safety, employment and living standards.
- Provide support to increase the number of Indigenous and Tribal People entering higher education; and support and sustain the transmission, proliferation, and regeneration of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' cultural works and languages.
- Enable Indigenous and Tribal acquired knowledge systems to be well-resourced and able to contribute to the mainstream education system; and ensure that every Indigenous and Tribal child has access to quality educational opportunities based on expressed cultural and social priorities.

## **Anti-Violence**

- Approach peace and anti-violence programs with education and understandings based on awareness of the intergenerational and intragenerational trauma resulting from the displacement and other colonial circumstances visited upon Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; and enact laws to restrict lateral community and family violence and abuses.
- Empower community initiatives and networks for alcohol and other substance abuses; and ensure measures to protect Indigenous and Tribal women and children from sexual and domestic violence and abuse.
- Provide Indigenous and Tribal women and children with safe protected spaces free from the actual or perceived threat of abusers; and stop/end the misuse of the criminal justice system, and the abuses of excessive force, that uses incarceration and violence by and within the police and prison system to deny Indigenous and Tribal Peoples their rights and lives.

## Protected Areas

- Include Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in the management of protected areas; and prevent locating toxic dumps, nuclear tests and other undesirable workings of industrialised society on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Lands, Waters and Sky.
- Ensure that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have veto rights when negotiating matters of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and property where potential for adverse impacts on Land, Waters and Sky exist.
- Observe, learn and act upon, with cross-cultural sensitivity, the balance and complexity of matriarchal and patriarchal cultural business, values and custodian wishes which apply to the protection and sustainability of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Lands, Waters and Sky.

## Compensation

- Create a process for fair compensation for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples where their property has been taken from them, or wages have been withheld from them, or they have been 'stolen' - involuntarily removed from their family and culture.
- Facilitate Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' involvement in a climate-friendly Green transitional renewable economy.
- Re-establish '100%' of precolonial levels for contemporary baseline aspirations in employment, housing, food and energy security of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

## Employment

- Create employment opportunity programmes for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.
- Enable banks to provide credit for development on communally owned lands.
- Facilitate appropriate inter- and intra- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples trade and exchange, in recognition of pre-colonial trade routes and forums for the exchange of goods between and within Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

## Food Security

- Improve food security by working with non-profit groups and funding education programmes in nutrition and horticulture.
- Recognise Treaty Rights concerning hunting, fishing and gathering at subsistence levels for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.
- Acknowledge the unique role of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Land and food management and agriculture, and seek ways to promote the integration of these techniques into contemporary economies, for the longevity of all peoples and the planet's biodiversity.

## References

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<sup>i</sup> [Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact | OHCHR](#)