

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in hosting a presentation of the 2-hour workshop, "*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples.*" I developed this workshop in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee of the Boulder Friends Meeting (Quakers). The script was adapted from the "KAIROS Blanket Exercise," copyright 2013, originally produced by the Aboriginal Rights Coalition and the Assembly of First Nations, Canada.

The goal of the workshop is for participants to understand the legacy of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery as it has affected both the European colonizers and the Indigenous colonized peoples of the United States since 1492. We hope to stimulate reflection, discussion, and appropriate actions toward building "right relationship" with Native Americans today.

We developed the program in response to calls from the World Council of Churches and Indigenous leaders at the United Nations, who urged faith communities and civic organizations to repudiate the Doctrine of Christian Discovery and to support implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The workshop is designed as a first step in that direction. We hope that the experience and the accompanying Resource Kit will encourage groups to engage in further study and to consider actions that they might take toward building "right relationship" among all the peoples of this land.

We also offer a 50-minute program, "*Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization,*" for middle school, high school, and religious education programs.

To carry this work forward, the Boulder Friends Meeting established a restricted fund, called "Toward Right Relationship," where tax-deductible donations can be made. These donations are needed to cover the costs of my travel and time to present the workshop. To make a donation, please send a check to *Boulder Friends Meeting*. On the memo line, write: *Right Relationship*. Mail your check to Treasurer, Boulder Friends Meeting, PO Box 4363, Boulder, CO 80306. Thank you!

On the following pages, I have laid out some tasks that hosting organizations are responsible for if they invite me to present the workshop in their communities. Please think about these things, and let's talk over questions as they arise. I'm looking forward to working with you to create an experience that will move your community forward on the path toward "right relationship."

In Friendship,

Paula Palmer, Director
Toward Right Relationship project
Boulder Friends Meeting
paularpalmer@gmail.com
303 443-0402
boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship

To host a “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” workshop, keep in mind....

Workshop participants may be of high school age and older.

A minimum of 15 participants is needed. Four of these people must agree to perform speaking parts, which requires them to engage in some pre-workshop preparation.

The ideal number of participants is 20-40. The maximum is 60.

We need a venue with a flat floor (as opposed to an auditorium) with enough space to form a circle of chairs for all the expected participants.

We need to know the approximate number of participants ahead of time, so in your publicity please ask people to RSVP or register.

The workshop is intended as an educational experience primarily for non-Native Americans. It is wonderful for Native American people to participate in the workshop, and it's important for them to know that the primary purpose is to educate and motivate non-Native people to become active allies in the struggle for Indigenous peoples' rights. Consider whether and how you would like to involve the Native people in your community in the presentation of the workshop.

In Eugene, OR, Gordon Bettles (Klamath), Steward of the Many Nations Longhouse at the University of Oregon, welcomed people to the workshop and honored the Kalapuya people, the area's first residents.

In Baltimore, MD, Dennis E. Seymour, Ph.D. (Cherokee), representing the Baltimore Indian Center and wearing a traditional ribbon shirt, read the part of the Native American in the script.

In Seattle, WA, Native Americans read the parts of the Historian and the Narrator in the script.

In many workshops, Native Americans have attended as participants.

You may want to consider scheduling a follow-up meeting to discuss next steps among yourselves. Academic instructors may want to consider a homework assignment related to the workshop. Be ready to announce these follow-ups at the close of the workshop.

Some specific tasks:

1. Arrange for my travel.
Set a date and time for the workshop.
Discuss how travel and other costs can be covered. Decide whether you will charge people to participate, ask for donations, or find other sources of funding to provide an honorarium and to cover travel costs.
Make arrangements for housing and ground transportation.
2. Reserve the venue.
3. Draft flyers or announcements to publicize the workshop. I can send you a template for a flyer, if you wish. Be sure to ask people to RSVP or register so you will know how many participants to expect.
4. Identify 4 people who will read the 4 speaking parts in the script. Ask them to agree to practice reading their parts aloud and to participate in one group rehearsal. Be sure that the readers are able to stand comfortably for 45 minutes, project their voices, and read aloud with fluidity, expression, and good enunciation. It's a good idea to identify a fifth person who is willing to prepare to fill in for any reader if necessary at the last minute!
5. I will email you the script. Forward it to the four speakers and ask them to print out a copy for themselves (or provide them with copies). The script should be in 14-point font (or larger, as needed). It should be printed on one side, not both sides of the paper (it is easier to read from one side). Encourage speakers to highlight their parts and to make other helpful notes on their copies (about pronunciations, for example). Please do not circulate the script to people other than the four speakers and the backup speaker.
6. Do some research and then draft a paragraph that acknowledges the Indigenous peoples who lived in your area before the arrival of Europeans. Consult with Native people in your area, if possible, to be sure your statement is accurate and appropriate. Send me your draft so that we can work together on a final version that will be inserted into the script. You may use the paragraph below, which we use in the workshops in Boulder, CO, as a model for yours:

We begin by acknowledging, with humility, that the land where we sit and stand today is the territory of the Arapaho people. We honor Chief

Niwot, also known as Left Hand, who was the leader of the last Southern Arapaho band to spend their winters in the Boulder Valley. Many Southern Arapaho people were massacred by the US Cavalry at Sand Creek, Colorado, in 1864. The survivors were forced out of Colorado to reservations in Wyoming and Oklahoma, where most Arapaho people live still today. Let us be aware that we occupy their homeland, that their presence is imbued in these mountains, valleys, and plains.

7. Gather the props. These include:
 - 10 (or more) blankets (enough to cover the space you have for the exercise)
 - 4 short stools for the speakers to stand on
 - CD player
 - Extension cord for the CD player
 - A basket for donations
 - A table where we can put the donation basket and copies of documents

8. Make photocopies of documents
I will email you these documents. Please make enough photocopies so that all participants may take one of each. The documents are:

Response Sheet
Evaluation Form
Workshop fliers
Indian Boarding School flier
Others, to be determined

PREPARATION AT THE WORKSHOP SESSION: SET UP

We should plan to arrive at the venue one hour before the workshop begins.

Form a circle of chairs, with enough chairs for all expected participants. If there are more than 35 participants, you may need to set the chairs up in two concentric circles. Lay the blankets on the floor within the circle of chairs, covering the space completely.

Place one stool in the middle of the blankets. This is where the Native American speaker will stand. Place the other three stools at different points on the edge of the circle of blankets, not on the blankets. Place the readers' ID signs (Historian, European, Native America, Narrator) on the stools where these readers will stand.

Set up the CD player and cue the Native American flute music.

Arrange the handouts and the donations basket on a table. It's a good idea to assign someone to staff this table before and after the workshop session.

As participants begin arriving, start playing Native American flute music.

Assign someone the task of welcoming people who arrive after the workshop has started. They should bring latecomers into the circle and give them a *pink* card.

(NOTE: I will bring the colored cards, the CD of Native American flute music, the readers' ID signs, and the basket of corn seeds.)

THE WORKSHOP SESSION

Welcome participants and introduce me. I'll ask everyone to introduce themselves and then begin reading the script. I will read the part of the Facilitator, and I will also be the Blanket Turner (as written in the script.)

The reading of the script takes about 45 minutes. Afterward, there is a 40-minute period for silent reflection and group sharing. At the end of that period, the script offers some options for closing the workshop. Consider what kind of ending is appropriate for your group. Church groups may want to include a prayer of your own. Academic and other non-religious groups may want to consider appropriate alternative endings. Please discuss your preferences with me ahead of time.

During the last 10 minutes, I'll offer additional resources and materials, and you may want to make announcements of your own. Participants will be asked to fill out an Evaluation Form before they leave.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

Gather all the Evaluation Forms. (I'll keep these, but you should read them, too.) Announce any follow-up activities you have planned.

I'd like for us to stay in touch. Please let me know if your group decides to take any actions that grow out of the workshop experience. Thanks so much for joining in this work.