

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change

Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples

Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery

*Support Implementation of the U.N. Declaration on
the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Work toward right relationship in your community



The Toward Right Relationship project of the Boulder Friends Meeting (Quakers) offers this workshop in response to calls from Indigenous leaders and the World Council of Churches. The 2-hour exercise traces the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, the 15th-century justification for European subjugation of non-Christian peoples. Our goal is to raise our level of knowledge and concern about these impacts, recognize them in ourselves and our institutions, and explore how we can begin to take actions toward “right relationship.” We provide a Resource Kit with suggestions for continued study, reflection, and action.

In the Doctrine of Discovery, we find the roots of injustice. In the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we find the seeds of change. How can we nurture these seeds to bring forth the fruits of right relationship among all peoples?

“This workshop is an innovative and impactful step towards healing. Working with the truth that has never been told about the American myth is vital to all of us in our country if we are to move forward in a more healthy way.” -- Brett Shelton (Lakota), Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

“Like everyone else I ask, I did not know about the Doctrine of Discovery. The [workshop] was an amazing experience that I expect to remember till my dying day. The mix of clear statements, together with the experiential learning, sent those lessons deep into my understanding.” --Jim Grant, Acadiana Friends Meeting, Louisiana

“This program brought up emotions that I haven’t let myself feel for a while. Now I am ready for action and my mind is spinning with ideas.” --Nico Larson, Naropa University

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