

Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship

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Doables

These are some actions that can be important steps on the path toward building right relationship with Native Americans and all Indigenous Peoples. Please add your own ideas, and then do at least one of these actions soon.

Learn more...

- Invite Native American speakers to give talks at your church, library, or civic organization.
- Learn the history of your own region and its Native Peoples, past and present.
- Click here: <http://invasionofamerica.ehistory.org/> and study an interactive map that shows how the United States government “acquired” Native lands by treaties and by breach of treaties. Search by geographic region or by Native tribe.
- Research your family’s settler story: Where did they immigrate from? Where did they settle? Which Native peoples lived in that area, and what was happening to them at the time?
- Click here and find out whose land you live on: native-land.ca
- Ask Native Americans in your region what issues are currently of greatest concern to them. Ask them if there are ways you can be helpful as an ally.
- Study Dr. Lynn Gehl’s “*The Allies’ Bill of Responsibilities*”
<http://www.lynngehl.com/my-ally-bill-of-responsibilities.html>
- Visit your local history museum. Encourage the staff to develop exhibits about the Native peoples of the area – past and present – with the participation of Native American scholars and community members
- Read books and watch films by Native American authors and film makers. Dr. Doreen Martinez (Mescalero Apache), who teaches Native American Studies, recommends these:

Current news in Indigenous communities primarily located within the U.S.

Native News Online: <https://nativenewsonline.net/>

www.indianz.com

<https://turtletalk.wordpress.com>

mediaindigena.com

Books

Everything You Know About Indians is Wrong by Paul Chatt Smith

Conquest by Andrea Smith

Like a Loaded Weapon by Robert A. Williams, Jr.

- The Rehnquist Court, Indian Rights, and the Legal History of Racism in America

The Third Space of Sovereignty by Kevin Bruynell

- The Postcolonial Politics of U.S. – Indigenous Relations

Going Native by Shari M. Huhndorf

- Indians in the American Cultural Imagination

Playing Indian by Phillip J. Deloria

- “will help the reader understand why, from the revelers at Merrymount to the Berkeley tribes of 1960’s, every oppositional current in America has found its way to the people called ‘Indians’.”

Films

Smoke Signals

Business of Fancydancing

Rhymes of the Ghouls

- Read Native American newspapers and magazines. See a list here: nativeamericancwic.org/native_american_newspapers.html
- Ask your public library to acquire more publications and films by Native Americans.
- Attend lectures by Native American speakers.
- Form a study group to learn about the Doctrine of Discovery, the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and current Native American issues.
- In your book group, read and discuss:
Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, <https://dofdmverno.org/exhibit/>
Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery, by Steven T. Newcomb.
In the Light of Justice: The Rise of Human Rights in Native America and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, by Walter Echo-Hawk.
An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Not From Here, by Allan G. Johnson
- Study resources on De-Colonization. For example, see:
[Towards Decolonization and Settler Responsibility](http://unsettlingamerica.wordpress.com/2016/10/04/towards-decolonization-and-settler-responsibility-reflections-on-a-decade-of-indigenous-solidarity-organizing/)
(<https://unsettlingamerica.wordpress.com/2016/10/04/towards-decolonization-and-settler-responsibility-reflections-on-a-decade-of-indigenous-solidarity-organizing/>)
Revolution 101: How to be a Settler Ally, <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/activist-toolkit/2014/05/revolution-101-how-to-be-settler-ally> and
<http://apihtawikosisan.com/aboriginal-issue-primers/>
- Visit the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.
- Visit tribal museums and cultural centers.
- Look at the Native-language place names in your part of the country – names of towns, rivers, mountains, and other landmarks that derived from words in Indigenous languages. Consider the significance of these names in the past, present, and future of your community.
- Attend the annual White Privilege Conference and study the resources at their excellent website: whiteprivilegeconference.com

In the schools, you can...

- Read your school district’s curriculum on Native American history. Does it accurately portray Native societies before the European invasion, the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, colonization, genocide, ecocide, and Native American societies today?
- Find out whether/how Native Americans were involved in creating the curriculum. Recommend that a Native American Review Commission be formed (and funded) to revise the curriculum at all grade levels.
- Suggest that Native Americans be invited to speak in classrooms.

- Donate good books about Native American history to the school library. Be sure to select books from the list provided by American Indians in Children's Literature, at <http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>
- Ask school board candidates how they will advocate for Native American participation in curriculum development. Make this a campaign issue.
- Support Native American candidates for school board and other civic offices.
- Offer to help a teacher present the 2-hour exercise, "*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples,*" in a high school or college classroom.
- Offer to help a teacher present the 50-minute exercise, "*Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization,*" in a middle school or high school classroom.

In the political realm, you can...

- Ask your representatives what they are doing to implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Learn about legislation that supports Native American rights. For example, see Friends Committee on National Legislation's "Native American Legislative Update" at fcnl.org, and Native American Rights Fund at narf.org.
- Sign up to receive email alerts from Friends Committee on National Legislation at <http://fcnl.org/issues/nativeam/>, and take action when you receive them.
- Urge your city or state to change the name of the October 11 holiday from "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples Day." See how Seattle did it [here](#):
- Download and print free posters at USDAC.us/nativeland. These posters by Native American artists say "You are on _____ land." Fill in the blank with the Native people of your area, and post these posters around your community.

In your faith community, you can...

- Read the World Council of Churches' 2012 Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery, and additional statements by various faith communities.
- Invite Native Americans to address the congregation.
- Educate your congregation about the Doctrine of Discovery and its impact over the centuries, including today.
- Present the workshop, "*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples.*" Contact paulaRpalmer@gmail.com and visit www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship
- Ask your faith community to draft and approve a statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and supporting implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. See examples of such statements in the Resource Kit posted at www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship.
- Work with your Religious Education committee to create meaningful age-appropriate activities for young people in your congregation.
- **Research** the role your denomination played during the era of the Indian boarding schools, and contribute your research toward a truth, reconciliation, and healing process

in collaboration with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (boardingschoolhealing.org).

- **View** a video, “The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves,” at <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb>.
- **Read** “Intergenerational Trauma: Understanding Natives’ Inherited Pain, by Mary Annette Pember, here: <https://www.tribaldatabase.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ICMN-All-About-Generations-Trauma.pdf>
- Watch and discuss these films about the multigenerational trauma still experienced in Native communities as a result of the Indian boarding schools:
 - “Our Spirits Don’t Speak English,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1P6zjNvo9E>
 - “The Thick, Dark Fog,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNKPXHr5NKY>
 - “Unrepentant: The Canadian Residential Schools,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0brD50DIv5Q>

Support Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations

- Find out about Native American organizations in your own community. How can you support them?
- Visit websites of national and international Indigenous Peoples’ organizations. Find out what they do, and support their programs financially and as an advocate. Start with these, and add others:
 - **National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**, boardingschoolhealing.org
The Mission of NABS is to work to ensure a meaningful and appropriate response from responsible agencies for those Native American individuals, families, and communities victimized by the United States’ federal policy of forced boarding school attendance and to secure redress from responsible institutions in order to support lasting and true community-directed healing.
 - **Pawnee Seed Preservation Project and Earthlodge Movement**
The Pawnee Keeper of the Seeds is coordinating these two projects in Pawnee, Oklahoma. They are creating community gardens where young people, adults, and elders work together to save and cultivate the Pawnee corn varieties. They are raising Funds to build a traditional Earthlodge, where they will store the seeds as their ancestors did. See their Facebook page, and send contributions by check to: Pawnee Nation Elders, 46200 S. 347 Road, Pawnee, OK, 74058. On the memo line, write: Pawnee Seed Preservation Project (or Pawnee Earthlodge Movement).
 - **Native American Rights Fund**, narf.org
Founded in 1970, the Native American Rights Fund is the oldest and largest nonprofit law firm dedicated to asserting and defending the rights of Indian tribes, organizations and individuals nationwide.
 - **Seventh Generation Fund**, 7genFund.org

Seventh Generation Fund promotes and maintains the uniqueness and sovereignty of our distinct Native Nations by offering advocacy, small grants, trainings and technical assistance to Indigenous communities.

- **Indigenous Environmental Network, ienclearth.org**
IEN is an alliance of grassroots Indigenous Peoples whose mission is to protect the sacredness of Mother Earth from contamination and exploitation by strengthening, respecting, and maintaining traditional teachings and natural laws.
- **Indigenous Law Institute, <http://ili.nativeweb.org/>**
The Indigenous Law Institute assists American Indian and other Indigenous communities to work toward a future of restoration and healing. They do this by working to develop a radically new basis for thinking about Native rights, from a Traditional Native Law perspective, and by contending that Native nations and peoples have an inherent right to live free of all forms of empire and domination.
- **Native Harvest, nativeharvest.com**
Native Harvest works to continue, revive, and protect our native seeds, heritage crops, naturally grown fruits, animals, wild plants, traditions and knowledge of our Indigenous and land-based communities, for the purpose of maintaining and continuing Native culture and resisting the global, industrialized food system.
- **Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, twocircles.org**
This spiritual circle is the continuation of an ancient practice of joint council among the most respected leaders of Indian nations. It nurtures renewal of traditional values and worldviews among Indian peoples, ensures the continuity of Native wisdom, and brings that wisdom to bear on important issues facing all peoples of the earth.
- **American Indian College Fund, collegeFund.org**
The American Indian College Fund transforms Indian higher education by Funding and creating awareness of the unique, community-based accredited tribal colleges and universities, offering students access to knowledge, skills, and cultural values which enhance their communities and the country as a whole.