



**INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
40th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
PHILLIP DEERE FAMILY ROUNDHOUSE
OKEMAH OKLAHOMA
SEPTEMBER 10TH – 12TH, 2014**

Resolution on Rights of Indigenous Women and Children

The delegates at this conference representing Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, and South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, adopt by consensus the following resolution to defend the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

We recognize the historical and intergenerational trauma impacting all Indigenous women of the world, continuing into the present;

We affirm the sanctity of the womb as the first sacred site and childbirth as the first sacred ritual, as well as the need for protection of both as sacred;

We further recognize the connection between environmental contamination and destruction of our Mother Earth through extractive industries, fracking and other forms of resource exploitation, and the sexual, environmental and reproductive violence being carried out against Indigenous women and girls all over the world;

We resolve to exercise and protect our Inherent Cultural Rights to practice our traditional women and girls' coming of age ceremonies, reproductive health, birthing and childrearing practices;

We affirm the right of the child to be breast fed and for women's breast milk to be protected from environmental contaminants as the first traditional food

We commit to zero-tolerance for all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in accordance with Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including sexual, reproductive and environmental violence;

We fully support the protection of the traditional, extended, intergenerational Indigenous family in accordance with Article 7 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

We honor and uphold the work of women human rights defenders and women working in the international arena and call for greater recognition of their leadership, achievements and sacrifices;

We call for increased research and attention on the impacts of agro-chemicals and pesticides on the reproductive health and capacity of Indigenous women including impacts on breast milk, fertility, infant illness and mortality and for implementation of the precautionary principle and FPIC regarding the application of such chemicals in and around Indigenous territories;

We affirm the inherent rights of Indigenous children to be raised within their Nations, speak their languages and practice their cultures.

We endorse the resolution presented to this conference addressing the ongoing legacies and inter-generational trauma caused by the past removal of American Indian Children through the US Boarding School policies;

We restate our opposition to the current, continued and ongoing removal of Indigenous children from their families, communities, Tribes and Nations all over the world;

We express concern about the high incarceration rates of Indigenous women in many countries and the detrimental impacts this has on large numbers of Indigenous children;

We oppose forced medical policies and practices including sterilization in violation of free, prior and informed consent in accordance with Article 19 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Finally, we reaffirm and reiterate our support for an inquiry on trafficked, missing, murdered and exploited Indigenous women and children in Canada, border areas of Mexico and other countries as expressed in the resolution on Indigenous Women and Children adopted by IITC's 38th Anniversary Conference in Oaxaca Mexico, September 28 – 30, 2012.

Adopted by Consensus September 12th, 2104 in Okemah, Oklahoma, USA