

May 20, 2004
23 HHR 5 20/05 Armenian Sisters Statement on Future Forums

~~I would like to make the following suggestions to improve the next Indigenous Conference~~

1. We need a map of the world which shows where different Indigenous Peoples live.
2. We need to contact all Indigenous People to ask for statements of abuses they are facing before the conference. So this material will be available in the beginning.
3. We need on the registration form to ask if organizations want their E mail on a general list. So everyone here can know how to get in contact with each other.
4. We should also think of those indigenous organizations who could not afford to be here and make an effort to include them, even if it means fundraising for their tickets.
5. Also we must realize some oppressive governments do not allow organizations that disagree with them so we must allow Indigenous individuals to come to the conference.
6. We need an information center where people can have access to each others statements & a place to ask questions.
7. Need for a balance of representatives on panels. For instance this year I noticed there was a lack of Middle Eastern Indigenous Speakers at the side events.

7. If we can ask organizations to send their statements ahead of time maybe we could have some time for collective political action. For instance we should be condemning current genocides like the one going on in Sudan right now and support all struggles for Indigenous Peoples rights.
8. We must realize that many countries in the United Nations are nations that have stolen Indigenous Peoples land. Since these countries will not willingly want to return these stolen lands, what kind of international pressure is necessary to facilitate the return of these Indigenous lands.
9. We must think of how to include more Indigenous women who have no money or voice in their patriarchal societies. Again fundraising should be done so these unheard women have a chance to participate in ~~the~~ conference.
10. We feel since there is so little time in the permanent Forum to speak we ask that government speakers wait until all Indigenous Peoples have had a chance to speak.

Armenian Sisters

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