

Cultural Survival

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/20-calls-action-honor-indigenous-rights-open-letter-biden-harris-administration-presidents-day>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

While much needs to be done to heal, restore, and re-define our relationships with one another, our lands, and all living beings, we believe that transformation is both possible and necessary. As an Indigenous-led organization that advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities self-determination, cultures, and political resilience, since 1972, we understand the importance of returning to right relationship with one another and our environment. We believe we are in a moment of time where we must choose one of two paths: one that centers reciprocity, love, empathy, inclusion, equity, and kinship, or one that centers hate, division, discrimination, extraction, and profits over people. We hope that this administration will go down the right path to address the wrongs of history.

We applaud the bold actions taken in your first year, including appointing Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) as Secretary of the Interior, Natalie Landreth (Chickasaw) as Deputy Solicitor for Land in the Department of the Interior; Arlando Teller (Navajo) as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs in the Department of Transportation, Wahleah Johns (Navajo) as Director of the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, and Charles Chuck Sams III (Cayuse and Walla Walla) as National Park Service Director; rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement; rescinding the Keystone XL Pipeline permit; placing a temporary moratorium on oil and gas activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; reversing Trump's attempt to strip Mashpee Wampanoag lands of reservation status; declaring October 11 as Indigenous Peoples Day; restoring the White House Council on Native American Affairs; signing an Executive Order on Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Peoples; and establishing the Tribal Treaty Rights Database to increase public knowledge. We also applaud [the American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), which made the largest single federal financial investment in Native communities in the history of the United States, with [\\$1.9 trillion in investments](#), including \$32 billion devoted specifically to Tribal communities and Native people. This funding included \$20 billion in emergency funding to help Tribal governments rebuild economies devastated by the pandemic.

We also call on you to continue to address injustice, inequity, violations of Indigenous rights, human rights, and civil rights everywhere. Towards that end, we urge you to address this initial list of issues of importance to Native communities in the United States:

Addressing this non-exhaustive list of 20 calls to action serves as a momentous opportunity for the United States to restore its relationship with Tribal Nations and the lands that we all call home. Following and respecting the leadership of American Indians and Indigenous Peoples and continuing to increase their representation in leadership positions within your administration will support your efforts to implement these calls to action. Thank you for your service and we look forward to the good work that lies ahead and the healing of our nation with Indigenous Peoples at the forefront.

Sincerely,
Cultural Survival

Photo: Indigenous Peoples March. Photo by Chenae Bullock.

[New Revelations of Child Graves at Residential Schools Lays Bare a History of Genocide](#)

[Historic Number of Native Americans Elected to U.S. Congress](#)

[Palestinian Artists Respond to The Delight Song of Tsoai-tes by M. Scott Momaday](#)

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are headquartered on [Massachusetts land](#), in Cambridge, MA, and we thank the past and current Indigenous stewards of this land.

Cultural Survival advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities self-determination, cultures and political resilience, since 1972.

Cultural Survival envisions a future that respects and honors Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance.

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