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*SSUNS indigenous affairs* -2016

Republic of Turkey

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Issues:

1. Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness
2. Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources
3. Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development
4. Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness

The republic of Turkey’s Indigenous people have poor access to healthcare compared to nation’s non-indigenous people. Due to the conditions and the result in these factors, indigenous people in Turkey experience high levels of maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition, cardiovascular illness, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria[[1]](#footnote-1). Thus the troubling occurrence of public health issues such as addiction, alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide continue to rise in Turkey’s indigenous people. Indigenous citizens living in poverty are more likely to get affected with tuberculosis. Statistics indicate that indigenous people are more five to eight times more likely to contract tuberculosis than the national average.[[2]](#footnote-2) Indigenous young adults in Turkey suffer from mental illness in comparison to Turkish people as they have better access to their countries healthcare[[3]](#footnote-3). As indigenous people in turkey have poor access to healthcare infant mortality is common due to health issues or conditions these indigenous people live by. The most common causes of death for newborns are neonatal infections, perinatal asphyxia and complications deriving from prematurity. The international and regional health initiatives have begun to pay greater attention to the specific health needs of the indigenous people of Turkey. Despite all the ongoing programs it’s challenging to meet all needs of Turkey’s indigenous people. Lack of accessibility is also a barrier for Turkey’s indigenous people right to health, and this includes physical and geographic accessibility, affordability, and non-discrimination in accessing services.

Therefore the republic of Turkey should:

* Expand the outreach of national health systems to provide holistic health and education programs geared specifically for a nation’s indigenous population
* Provide treatments for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria for the indigenous people

1. Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

Indigenous people in Turkey reside in remote places where climate change and natural disasters are more ravaged to other places. Indigenous people in turkey rely mostly on natural resources to complement their housing, clothing or food which will suffer the consequences of climate change.[[4]](#footnote-4) As Turkey’s climate changes the indigenous people will suffer and there conditions will get worse. The indigenous people in turkey do not meet their basic needs such as education, healthcare and security. Indigenous people in Turkey face eviction from their native territories in the name of conservation. Indigenous people are very likely to facing problems as they have to adapt very quickly to the environment they live in, however their knowledge of their local territories is extensive. Indigenous people in Turkey should have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess. This declaration of indigenous rights led to many other programs that have been developed to increase indigenous representation at UN conference as well as begin active monitoring of indigenous rights, prevention of genocides and conserve native environment.[[5]](#footnote-5) Indigenous people in Turkey should have right to land, should be able to own and control land. The republic of turkey should have recognition and protection to these lands. Turkey’s indigenous people have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands. Turkey is trying to find a way to both benefit indigenous communities and the environment in order to preserve both while limiting the impact of big corporations and finding replacement to the natural resources lost. Indigenous people legally prohibit any economic and social protection of the people, which limit their development and their integration within the society.

Therefore the republic of Turkey should:

* Empower Indigenous people to own and control designated land and protect its people
* Ensure basic needs to the indigenous

1. Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development

Indigenous people face discrimination and hardship that is the direct result of generations of systematic and social racism. Indigenous groups are among the poorest in the world. [[6]](#footnote-6)Education is a concern for indigenous people in Turkey. While much of the framework for the fight against indigenous poverty exists already thanks to the work of NGOs, advisory groups, government reports, and other external organizations, there exists a pressing need for clear, consistent legislation and a worldwide movement toward implementation of a policy of indigenous empowerment led by indigenous leaders and provided sufficient funding to achieve stated objectives.[[7]](#footnote-7) Turkey’s indigenous people are to be supported for poverty and should have access to education. Turkey should work on fighting poverty and Implementation of a plan for indigenous economic empowerment.

Therefore the republic of Turkey should:

* Establish a designated budget to secure economic and health growth to its indigenous citizens
* Ensure indigenous people development and success within the Turkish society

Bibliography

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“Indigenous Women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication,” International Union for Conservation of Nature. Accessed 20 June 2016. <http://www.iucn.org/content/indigenous-women-key-actors-poverty-and-hunger-eradication>

1. *In reference to SSUNS indigenous affairs Guide* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *In reference to SSUNS indigenous affairs Guide* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *In reference to SSUNS indigenous affairs Guide* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. United Nations. General Assembly. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. New York, N.Y.: United Nations, 2007. Print. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *In reference to SSUNS indigenous affairs Guide* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://countrymeters.info/en/Turkey> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)