



## World Indigenous day - 1

Indigenous people also known as first known first peoples, first nations, native people are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, indigenous people from around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as a distinct group.

There are 370 million indigenous people around the world who spread across 90 countries. They belong to more than 5,000 different groups and speak more than 4,000 languages. Indigenous groups represent about 5% of the world's population, where a vast majority of them live in Asia making up 70% of that population.

Indigenous groups may be distinct from the dominant groups yet they suffer some form of marginalization and discrimination. These harsh realities constitute eviction from their ancestral homes, being denied opportunities to express their culture, physical attacks and being treated as second class citizens. Indigenous people today are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world. They have sought recognition for their identities, their way of life and their right to traditional lands and natural resources for years yet their rights have always been violated.

As part of the 2030 agenda the UN seeks to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples. In a statement shared by the UNESCO Director-General "*The disappearance of indigenous languages is a major threat to indigenous communities and their unique heritage, as well as to our global diversity and our very potential for creativity and innovation. UNESCO strives to focus attention on these critical issues, and to take steps towards global collective action to address them.*"

### Fascinating Facts about Indigenous People

- There are an estimated 370-500 million indigenous people in the world, spread across 90 countries. They live in all geographic regions and represent 5,000 different cultures.
- Indigenous people created and speak an overwhelming majority of the world's 7,000 languages.
- Indigenous people account for 15 percent of the poorest. They're more likely to suffer from malnutrition, and often lack adequate social protection and economic resources.
- The life expectancy of indigenous people is as much as 20 years lower than that of their non-indigenous counterparts. Often lacking adequate healthcare and information, they are more likely to get diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS.
- More than one in three indigenous women are sexually assaulted during their lifetime, and they also have higher rates of maternal mortality, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Indigenous communities contribute to protecting the environment. These communities thrive by living in harmony with the environment.

### Stories told by exposure:

- What you should know about indigenous people: ([Learn more](#))
- Fascinating facts about tribal people around the world: ([Learn more](#))
- 10 amazing tribes found only in Africa: ([Watch now](#))
- The land of no men: inside Kenya's only women haven : ([Watch now](#)).