

65th anniversary

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia and The Ethical Society of Philadelphia present:

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

9th December 2013

5.30-8.00PM

1906 Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed on the **10th of December 1948** with Eleanor Roosevelt as the Chairwoman of the Declaration of Human Rights Committee.



ONWARD!

Aboriginals, Australia

- Migrated from Africa to Asia more than 25,000 years ago
- Originally had 250-300 spoken languages; today all but 20 are endangered
- Aboriginals constitute 3% of Australia's total population today

Maasai, Africa

- The Kenyan government has instituted programs to encourage the Maasai to abandon their traditions but they refuse to participate
- The Maasai are a Nilotic group
- Cattle and livestock are a form of currency amongst the Maasai

First Nations, North America

- Their cultures and histories depend on oral traditions, no script
- There are over 562 Native American tribes in the US and Canada
- Cultural and political activism began in late 1960's seeking acknowledgement of their rights

Kazakhs, Asia

- Their name is speculated to come from the Turkish word "Qaz", which means 'to wander'
- Kazakhs have settled in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, Mongolia and Russia
- Currently there are 13,600,000 Kazakhs

Romani, Europe

- Originated from the Punjab in India
- “Gypsies” entered Europe in the 8th to 10th century
- “Gypsies” were scorned and persecuted across Europe as ‘untouchables’
- Despised, their holocaust (50% perished) is still ignored in Europe

Bororo, South America

- The Bororo associate body odor with a person's life-force, and breath-odor with the person's soul
- The Bororo were “discovered” in 1930 by a search party tracking the Amazon for a lost explorer
- Census count is 1547 (2007); they face extinction if protection is not forthcoming

Guest Speakers:



Ed Nakawatase served as the AFSC National Representative for Native American Affairs in the Community Relations Division/ Unit (1974-2005).

“I was an observer at the first session (1983) of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva; the UN’s first structural effort to deal with indigenous peoples.”

The UN Working Group began crafting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in this period around 1983; the process culminated in the passage of the Declaration by the UN General Assembly in 2007. The Declaration established standards for the treatment of indigenous peoples, and, in groundbreaking fashion, affirmed the distinctive identities of indigenous peoples and their rights as collective entities.



Arturo Requesens is a human rights lawyer working at the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Mr. Requesens studied at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, Master’s program in International Protection of Human Rights. Prior he studied Law at the National Autonomous University of Mexico

Before working at the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues, Mr. Requesens worked for the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights at the Organization of American States, the Academia and human rights NGO’s in Mexico.

Arturo Requesens (SPFII) along with Ravi Karkara (UN-Habitat) helped begin and lead a project titled Know Your Rights! This text highlights the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples for indigenous adolescents.

“Until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.” MLK

Program:

- 5.30-6.10 **Registration**; mingling and networking (Film clips about ‘Idle No More’ and other movements)
- 6.10-6.15 **Welcome** and a toast to Eleanor Roosevelt
- 6.15-6.35 Remarks by Mary Day Kent on her recent trip to Mexico; Christiaan Morssink reflecting on the final session of the 2013 APHA conference (www.apha.org) regarding “Indian Health”
- 6.35-7.00 **Ed Nakawatase** on the work to get to the UN Resolution of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted
- 7.00-7.20 **Arturo Requesens** on the work of the United Nations for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples since 2007
- 7.20-8.00 Q and A, discussions and commitments to engage
- 8.00 Adjourn



“13 September 2007 – The General Assembly today adopted a landmark declaration outlining the rights of the world’s estimated 370 million indigenous people and outlawing discrimination

against them – a move that followed more than two decades of debate.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been approved after 143 Member States voted in favour, 11 abstained and four – **Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States** – voted against the text.

A non-binding text, the Declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues.

The Declaration emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.

It also prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, and their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development.”

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp//story.asp?NewsID=23794&Cr=indigenous&Cr1=#.UqQciOIQfbo>