Doables
Actions to Take in Your Community

Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

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These are some actions that can be important steps on the path toward building relationships based on truth, respect, and justice. Please add your own ideas, and then do at least one of these actions soon.

Learn more…

- Invite Native American speakers to give talks at your church, library, or civic organization.
- Learn the history of your own region and its Native Peoples, past and present.
- Click: usg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eb6ca76e008543a89349ff2517db47e6 and study an interactive map that shows how the United States government "acquired" Native lands by treaties and by breach of treaties. Search by geographic region or by Native tribe.
- Research your family's settler story: Where did they immigrate from? Where did they settle? Which Native peoples lived in that area, and what happened to them? Where are they now?
- Click here and find out whose land you live on: native-land.ca
- Ask Native Americans in your region what issues are currently of greatest concern to them. Ask them if there are ways you can be helpful as an ally.
- Study Dr. Lynn Gehl's *Ally Bill of Responsibilities*: www.lynngehl.com/ally-bill-ofresponsibilities.html
- Visit your local history museum. Encourage the staff to develop exhibits about the Native peoples of the area – past and present – with the participation of Native American scholars and community members.
- Read books and watch films by Native American authors and film makers. Here are some suggestions:

Subscribe to receive current news from American Indian sources:

ictnews.org nativenewsonline.net www.indianz.com

Books

An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee, by David Treuer
Everything You Know About Indians is Wrong by Paul Chatt Smith
The Re-Discovery of America by Ned Blackhawk
Native Nations by Kathleen DuVal
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah
Becoming Kin by Patty Krawec
Restoring the Kinship Worldview, eds. Wahinkpe Topa and Darcia Narvaez

From these books and resources, learn how to research your family's history in relation to the Native peoples on whose land you live. Consider how to acknowledge what you learn.

Inherited Silence, by Louise Dunlap
The Cost of Free Land, by Rebecca Clarren
Healing Haunted Histories, by Elaine Enns and Ched Myers
Becoming a Good Relative, by Hilary Geovale
Land Justice Futures: www.landjusticefutures.org

- Ask your public library to acquire more publications and films by Native Americans.
- Attend lectures by Native American speakers.
- Form a study group to learn about the Doctrine of Discovery, the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and current Native American issues.
- In your book group, read and discuss the books listed above, and also:
  Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, dismantlediscovery.org/about/doctrine-of-discovery-basics/
  Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery, by Steven T. Newcomb.
  In the Light of Justice: The Rise of Human Rights in Native America and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, by Walter Echo-Hawk.
  The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery by Sarah Augustine
  1491, by Charles Mann
- Watch and discuss the film *Two Rivers* methowvalleyinterpretivecenter.org/two-rivers
- Study resources on De-Colonization. For example, see:
  Towards Decolonization and Settler Responsibility: https://bit.ly/4sr2jNC
  Revolution 101: How to be a Settler Ally rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/activisttoolkit/2014/05/revolution-101-how-to-be-settler-ally
  Indigenous Topics 101 apihtawikosisan.com/aboriginal-issue-primers
- Visit the National Museum of the American Indian, tribal museums, and cultural centers.
- Look at the Native-language place names in your part of the country – names of towns, rivers, mountains, and other landmarks that derived from words in Indigenous languages. Consider the significance of these names in the past, present, and future of your community.
- Attend the annual White Privilege Conference and study the resources at their excellent website: www.theprivilegeinstitute.com
- Explore more resources and actions at friendspeaceteams.org/trr/resources

In schools, you can…

- Read your school district's curriculum on Native American history. Does it accurately portray Native societies before the European invasion, the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, colonization, genocide, ecocide, and Native American societies today?
- Find out whether/how Native Americans were involved in creating the curriculum. Suggest that a Native American Review Commission be formed (and funded) to revise the curriculum at all grade levels.
- Recommend the Museum of the American Indian resource for teachers, americanindian.si.edu/nk360, and the Bioneers Indigeneity Curriculum, bioneers.org/indigeneity-curriculum
- Suggest that Native Americans be invited to speak in classrooms.
- Donate good books about Native American history to the school library. See the list provided by American Indians in Children's Literature, at americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com
- Ask school board candidates how they will advocate for Native American participation in curriculum development. Make this a campaign issue.
- Support Native American candidates for school board and other civic offices.
- Offer to help a teacher present the "*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*" workshops in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. Contact paulaRpalmer@gmail.com to coordinate.
- Suggest or purchase Tribal Nations Maps by Aaron Carapella, available at www.tribalnationsmaps.com

In the political realm, you can…

- Ask your state and federal senators and representatives what they are doing to implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Learn about legislation that supports Native American rights. For example, see Friends Committee on National Legislation's "Native American Legislative Update" www.fcnl.org/issues/native-americans, and the Native American Rights Fund: narf.org/
- Urge your city or state to change the name of the October holiday from "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples Day." See how Seattle did it here: bit.ly/3LdQGZQ
- Urge your state legislature to ban the use of Native American mascots and logos. See how Maine did it here: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/us/native-american-sports-logos.html
- Download and print free posters at USDAC.us/nativeland. These posters by Native American artists say: "You are on _____ land." Fill in the blank with the Native people of your area and post these posters around your community.

In your faith community, you can…

- Read the World Council of Churches' 2012 Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery, and additional statements by various faith communities: bit.ly/3LIjkCg
- Invite Native Americans to address the congregation.
- Acknowledge the Native peoples on whose land you live and worship (see https://quakerservice.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/Land-Acknowledgment-Resource.pdf).
- Educate your congregation about the Doctrine of Discovery and its impact over the centuries, including today. Watch the film, *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code.*
- Present the workshop, *"Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples."* Contact paulaRpalmer@gmail.com and visit www.friendspeaceteams.org/trr
- Ask your faith community to draft and approve a statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and supporting implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Work with your Religious Education committee to create meaningful age-appropriate activities for young people in your congregation.
- Join other faith communities to research how your congregation may have benefitted from land theft from Native peoples and consider reparative actions. See: landjusticefutures.org
- Join the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition: boardingschoolhealing.org
- Read these comprehensive reports about the Indian boarding schools and their ongoing consequences, published by the U.S. Department of the Interior:
  Volume 1: bit.ly/490OGxL, Volume 2: bit.ly/3JFAnEy
- Learn how your denomination supported or operated Indian boarding schools and how they are holding themselves accountable. See resources here: bit.ly/TRRChurchReparations.
- View the video, "The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves," at bhfh.org/the-quaker-indigenous-boarding-schools-facing-our-history-and-ourselves.
- Read the memoir, "Medicine River," by Mary Annette Pember
- Watch and discuss these films about the multigenerational trauma still experienced in Native communities as a result of the Indian boarding schools and Child Welfare policies:
  "Our Spirits Don't Speak English" richheape.cinevee.com/our-spirits-dont-speak-english
  "Blood Memory," visionmakermedia.org/filmtype/blood-memory
  "Indian Horse, " www.indianhorse.ca/en/film
  "Canada's Dark Secret," www.youtube.com/watch?v=peLd_jtMdrc&t=428s
  "Sugarcane," sugarcanefilm.com

Support Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

- Find out about Native American organizations in your own community. How can you learn from them and support their work?
- Visit websites of national and international Indigenous Peoples' organizations. Find out what they do, and support their programs financially and as an advocate. Start with these, and add others:

➢ **National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition,** boardingschoolhealing.org
Our mission is to ensure a meaningful and appropriate response from responsible agencies for those Native American individuals, families, and communities victimized by the United States' federal policy of forced boarding school attendance and to secure redress from responsible institutions in order to support lasting and true community-directed healing.

➢ **Native American Rights Fund**, narf.org
The Native American Rights Fund is the oldest and largest nonprofit law firm dedicated to asserting and defending the rights of Indian tribes, organizations and individuals nationwide.

➢ **Seventh Generation Fund**, 7genFund.org
Seventh Generation Fund promotes and maintains the uniqueness and sovereignty of our distinct Native Nations by offering advocacy, small grants, trainings and technical assistance to Indigenous communities.

➢ **Indigenous Environmental Network**, ienearth.org
IEN is an alliance of grassroots Indigenous Peoples whose mission is to protect the sacredness of Mother Earth from contamination and exploitation by strengthening, respecting, and maintaining traditional teachings and natural laws.

➢ **Indigenous Law Institute,** http://ili.nativeweb.org/
The Indigenous Law Institute assists American Indian and other Indigenous communities to work toward a future of restoration and healing. They are developing a new basis for thinking about Native rights, from a Traditional Native Law perspective, and by contending that Native nations and peoples have an inherent right to live free of all forms of empire and domination.

➢ **Native American Media Organizations**
Subscribe to these media sources and support them financially:
nativenewsonline.net www.indianz.com ictnews.org/about-us

➢ **American Indian College Fund,** collegefund.org
The American Indian College Fund transforms Indian higher education by funding the unique, community-based accredited tribal colleges and universities, offering students access to knowledge, skills, and cultural values that enhance their communities and the country at large.