



Indigenous Women Protecting and Defending Rights, Land and Climate

Presented by the Women's Earth & Climate Action Network (WECAN) International

***April 18, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 pm
New York City & Online via Facebook Livestream***

Featuring:



Kandi Mossett (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara; Lead Organizer on the Extreme Energy & Just Transition Campaign with the Indigenous Environmental Network)

Kandi Mossett of the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) has emerged as a leading voice in the fight to bring visibility to the impact that climate change and environmental injustice are having on Indigenous communities across North America. "Above all, fight to protect all life; be a voice for all those that can't speak and never give up hope." After completing her Master's Degree in Environmental Management, Ms. Mossett began her work with the IEN as Tribal Campus Climate Challenge Coordinator, engaging with more than 30 tribal colleges to instate community based environmental programs, discuss issues of socio-ecologic injustice, and connect indigenous youth with green jobs. She currently serves as the IEN's Native Energy & Climate Campaign Organizer, focusing at present on creating awareness about the environmentally & socially devastating effects of hydraulic fracturing on tribal lands. Her local work is complemented by international advocacy work, including participation in several UN Forums and a testimony before the U.S. Congress on the climate issue and its links to issues of health, identity, and well being on tribal lands. Kandi's message is: "Above all, fight to protect all life; be a voice for all those that can't speak and never give up hope." Always remember, "You're not guaranteed change when you make your voice heard against injustice; but you're guaranteed to fail if you remain silent."



Michelle Cook (Diné; human rights lawyer)

Michelle Cook J.D. (Diné/Navajo) is an indigenous human rights lawyer and a commissioner on the Navajo Human Rights Commission. She is a current SJD candidate at the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. She is writing her dissertation on financial institutions, indigenous people's human rights, gender, and indigenous transnationalism. She is the founder of the Divest Invest Protect campaign and Co-Director of its projects. She has worked with the Water Protector Legal Collective, the on the ground legal team which provides legal services to those arrested at the Standing Rock encampment. She advocates for indigenous human rights internationally.



Gloria Ushigua (Sápara; President and founder of Ashiñwaka, the Association of Sápara Women, Ecuador)

Gloria Ushigua is the President of Ashiñwaka, the Association of Sápara Women, an organization committed to maintaining the cultural identity of the Sápara peoples and promoting the rights of Indigenous women. Gloria is at the forefront of the movement to stop oil exploitation across the Ecuadorian Amazon, and in her community in Llachama Cocha, leading public talks, advocacy work, marches, demonstrations and other daily efforts in response to violent policies that continue to open the region to fossil fuel development. As a result of her work as an Indigenous human rights and land defender, she has been threatened, intimidated, judicially harassed, and assaulted by law enforcement officers, along with other members of her family.



LaDonna Brave Bull Allard (Lakota historian, Member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and founder/landowner of Sacred Stone Camp/Village, North Dakota)

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard is a mother, Lakota historian, land-owner along the Dakota Access Pipeline route, and the founder of Sacred Stone Camp, the first prayerful resistance camp opened as part of the movement to halt the Dakota Access Pipeline near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. By December 2016, more than 10,000 Indigenous people and environmental activists were camping in the area on and around LaDonna's home. She has been a major catalyst and leader in the Standing Rock movement, which has become the perhaps the largest ever intertribal alliance on the American continent, with over 200 Indigenous nations represented. With most Standing Rock defenders now departed from her land - LaDonna remains as a ceaseless voice for her people, the Earth and the water - sharing her story and calls to action at platforms around the world as she continues to advocate for justice. Allard is an enrolled member of, and former historical preservation officer for, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Her people are Inhunktonwan from the Jamestown Valley, Hunkpapa and Blackfoot.



Tokata Iron Eyes (Hunkpapa and Oglala Lakota from the Standing Rock Reservation; Youth Advisor for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Youth Advisor for Sacred Stone Village; Administrator for Last Real Indians)

Tokata Iron Eyes is a 14 year-old enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. She is Hunk papa and Oglala Lakota from the Standing Rock Reservation. Tokata is a leader and stood up alongside her peers to fight against the fossil fuel industry and to protect the water and sacred sites of her homelands during the NODAPL movement. She is an environmental activist, public speaker and youth mentor. She is a youth advisor for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and for Sacred Stone Village. Tokata is also an administrator for Last Real Indians. She hopes to give indigenous youth a voice and show all young people that their opinions matter and they are the change that the world needs.



Thilmeeza Hussain (Former Deputy Ambassador to the UN from the Maldives; WECAN Advisory Council Member; Founder of Voice of Women, Maldives)

Thilmeeza Hussain is a lecturer of sustainability and global warming and an environmentalist. She is the founder of Voice of Women (VoW – www.voiceofwomen.org) Maldives, she sits on the advisory board of Women’s Earth Climate Action Network and is also a member of Climate Wise Women, global platforms promoting women’s leadership on climate change. Thilmeeza

was serving as the Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) of the Republic of the Maldives to United Nations from 2009 until 2012 when the first democratically elected government was toppled. During her term at the UN, she had the sustainable development portfolio and led the Maldives on environmental and climate change issues. She was amongst the voice of a new generation of women in the developing world who see climate change as the fundamental challenge for their future as well as a key platform for leadership. During the time she was also accredited as the non-residential Deputy Ambassador to the United States and Canada. Before serving as the DPR, she served as the Minister of State for Home Affairs – North Province and was among the team of young, enthusiastic members of the first democratically elected government in the country. She worked extensively with the decentralization process and was also in charge of the establishment of North Province Office. When Thilmeeza resigned following the coup d’état that overthrew the government she was seven months pregnant, today she is a proud mother of a five-year-old boy. She continues to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee for the Maldivian Democratic Party; a party committed to restoring democracy in the Maldives. She is also an Aspen New Voices Fellow for 2018.