



Indigenous Women On The Frontlines: Report-Backs & Calls To Action

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Presented as part of WECAN International's series of free, online Education and Advocacy Trainings for Women for Climate Justice!

Featuring:



Eriel Tchekwie Deranger

Indigenous Climate Action welcomed Eriel Tchekwie Deranger as the organization's first Executive Director in August 2017. Deranger was a founding member of Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) and spent two years in the role of interim director, helping to build the strategic direction of the organization. A member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN), Deranger has a far reaching reputation for challenging fossil fuel development and championing the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Eriel has an extensive experience working within the Environmental Justice and Indigenous Rights field with organizations like the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), Rainforest Action Network (RAN), Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), and with her home Nation the ACFN. She is also a wife and mother of two.



Tara Houska

Tara Houska, Anishinaabe of Couchiching First Nation, is a tribal attorney based in Washington, D.C., the National Campaigns Director of Honor the Earth, and a former advisor on Native American affairs to Bernie Sanders. She advocates on behalf of tribal nations at the local and federal levels on a range of issues impacting indigenous peoples. She is a co-founder of Not Your Mascots, a non-profit committed to educating the public about the harms of stereotyping and promoting positive representation of Native Americans in the public sphere. She spent over six months living and working in North Dakota fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline, and over the past year, much of Tara's efforts have gone toward building a support network to defend the nearly 700 protectors who've been detained and arrested at Standing Rock, as well as divesting from banks that fund the pipeline. Her work embodies the notion that we can't treat environmental and social injustice separately. "These issues indicate

race, economic disparity, and income inequality,” she says. “You don’t see a pipeline going through Beverly Hills. Keeping that issue of justice at the forefront is really important to me in everything I do.”



Cherri Foytlin

Cherri Foytlin is an Indigenous writer, organizer, advocate, activist, photographer, speaker, and mother of six who lives in south Louisiana. She is of Dine, African-American and Latina descent. Cherri is the author of *Spill It! The Truth About the Deep Water Horizon Oil Rig Explosion*, and regularly contributes to www.BridgetheGulfProject.org and other local, national and international publications. In the Spring of 2011 she walked to Washington D.C. from New Orleans (1,243 miles) to call for action to stop the BP Deepwater Drilling Disaster, and has ongoingly taken direct action in support of human and ecological health of Gulf Coast citizens and communities. She has served as the State Director of Bold Louisiana, and as a Senior Fellow for the Center for Earth Ethics. She is also signatory to the Indigenous Women of the Americas - Defenders of Mother Earth Treaty. Most recently, Cherri has emerged as a leader of the L'eau Est La Vie Camp, on the frontlines of the struggle against the Bayou Bridge Pipeline, an Energy Transfer Partners project which would devastate the regions communities, waterways and ecosystems.