

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – AUGUST 9TH

On December 23, 1994, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly decided the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples shall be observed, each year, on August 9th. This date marks the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The day is observed to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous populations, and recognize their contributions to improve world issues such as environmental protection. This year's theme is *Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples and the Call for a New Social Contract*.



Indigenous or Aboriginal peoples are so-called because they were living on their lands before settlers of different cultures or ethnic origins arrived from elsewhere; they are the descendants of the original inhabitants of a country or a geographical region.

There are over 476 million indigenous peoples living in 90 countries across the world, accounting for 6.2% of the global population. Unfortunately, many still live under central governments that control their lands, territories and resources.

For Native Americans, Columbus Day has long been hurtful. It conjures up the violent history of 500 years of oppression and control at the hands of European explorers and those who settled here. The term "Indian," in reference to the original inhabitants of the American continent, is said to derive from Christopher Columbus, who believed he had arrived in "the Indies" (Asia), his intended destination.



Sources: 1. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day> 2. <https://www.google.com/search?q=haudenosaunee>
3. <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-day-indigenous-people>
4. <https://www.umass.edu/legal/derrico/shoshone/indian.html> Photo Sources: Middle left: <https://trello.com/c/RILiIdFi/93-logo>
Lower right: <https://utzthreads.com/blogs/news-1/international-day-of-the-worlds-indigenous-peoples>
Bottom panel: https://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/albums/72157614476504440/with/3311562829/