



**The Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP)**

[www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)

185 E. 85<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028 Phone: 1 (201) 941-2266

E-mail: [drkalayjian@meaningfulworld.com](mailto:drkalayjian@meaningfulworld.com)

## **United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**

**13 August 2020**

**Samantha Raymond and Lorraine Simmons**

United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples first started 23 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided in its resolution 49/214. They concluded that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People shall be observed on 9 August annually. The date marks the first meeting, in 1982, of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Dr. Kalayjian; President and founder of The Association of Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP), Meaningfulworld, opened Meaningfulworld's celebration of the United Nations International Day of World's Indigenous People's presentation with a welcome and invocation. She then introduced some of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which included: SDG #4 Quality Education: presenter; Jasmin Guevarra, ATOP United Nations intern. SDG #5 Gender Equality: presenter; Frida A. Huerta, B.A., ATOP United Nations Intern. SDG #17 Partnership: presenter Runyu Wang, M.A., Meaningfulworld Outreach and Research Intern.

Jasmin Guevarra, gave a wonderful Power Point presentation on Quality Education for Indigenous People. Ms. Guevarra shared a quote by SG Ban Ki-Moon quote, "In some countries, less than 40 percent of indigenous children attend school full-time. In many others, few indigenous children complete a full high school education" (Ban Ki-Moon, 2016). Ms. Guevarra's presentation highlighted the lack of respect and resources the diverse cultures of indigenous peoples have in their educational environment. With few teachers who speak their languages and lack of educational materials to teach children about the indigenous peoples and their ways of life. Furthermore, Ms. Guevarra talked about the obstacles of education, for example indigenous children are discriminated against in their communities. Indigenous girls experience unfriendly school environments, gender discrimination, school-based violence, and sexual abuse. Also, their loss of identity, feeling disconnected with parents and predecessors, and feeling caught not fitting into either culture are challenges they experience. Lastly, she spoke about ensuring quality indigenous education, some examples include special programs designed for indigenous children such as United Nations Expert Mechanism, and United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous People. The Convention on Biological Diversity promotes indigenous perspectives, innovations, and practices. The Convention on Biological Diversity also promotes that Indigenous languages need to be integrated into educational programs. Ms. Guevarra closed her presentation with a quote by United Nations Expert Mechanism 2009, "Deprivation of access to quality education is a major factor contributing to social marginalization, poverty and dispossession of indigenous peoples."



*Participants on Zoom*



*Donna Ohstonha Ohskennonoton*

Next, Frida A. Huerta spoke about achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. She started with target goals of the United Nations (General) listed here: 5.1-End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. 5.2-Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. 5.3-Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. 5.4- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate. 5.5-Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. 5.6-Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. 5.A-Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws. 5.B-Enhance the use of enabling technology, information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women. 5.C-Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. Furthermore, Ms. Huerta spoke about Indigenous Women and how they face noteworthy difficulties that alter expectations regarding their human rights. These types of inequities include regularly needing access to education, social insurance and genealogical grounds, exposure to viciousness, for example, aggressive behavior at home and sexual maltreatment.

Lastly, Runyu (Daisy) Wang, spoke about revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, and International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Wang presented information on who the indigenous people. According to the 2030 Agenda, “leave no one behind,” it is very important for the whole world to raise awareness of the needs for indigenous people. Ms. Wang proceeded to speak about the SDG #17, which is Partnership for the Goals, and asked What could private businesses and local government do for the indigenous peoples? What could the local government do and what could religious institutions do for indigenous peoples? Furthermore, what does Meaningfulworld contribute? Ms. Wang concluded by highlighting how ATOP Meaningfulworld partners nationally in 26 states in U.S.A. and internationally in 48 countries in 7 regions of the world. ATOP enjoys a sustainable partnership

with dozens of academic institutions locally and globally, INGO's, professional organizations, governments, religious institutions, orphanages, police and other armed forces and social justice organizations, just to name a few. She concluded by reinforcing our Motto:

***When one helps another, both become stronger!***

After the 3 informed speakers from ATOP Meaningfulworld, Donna Ohstonha Ohskennonoton, from the Schaghticoke tribe, performed emotionally invoking Native American drumming that resembled the human heartbeat. While she was drumming, Dr. Ani led us in her signature Heart-to-Heart-Circle of Love and Gratitude. Participants were guided to envision being in a circle holding hands, while imagining placing their right hand on the heart of the person to their right. Dr. Ani encouraged letting their imaginations take over as they connected with one another individually at first, then connecting with the entire group members in the circle, and then with the world. This practice is used with the intention of helping to send healing light into the world and to help balance positive energies of healing and well-being for all people world-wide.

**Your generous support, partnership and tax-deductible donations are appreciated:**

<https://meaningfulworld.com/get-involved/donation>

**Founded in 1990, the Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP) Meaningfulworld, charitable organization affiliated with the United Nations Dept. of Public Information, has achieved international recognition as a leader in training humanitarian outreach professionals as well as responding to two decades of global and local disasters. ATOP is committed to health and global education promoting state-of-the-art scientific theory, peace, forgiveness, consciousness research, internship, and the development of technical skills to train mental health professionals, teachers, psychologists, art therapists, nutritionists, alternative medicine practitioners, clergy, nurses, mediators, interfaith ministers, and lay persons committed to service the self and humanity. Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Outreach Teams have helped rehabilitate survivors from over 48 countries, & 26 states in USA making a daily difference in people's lives helping to transform tragedy and trauma into healing and meaning-making through post trauma growth, resilience, emotional intelligence, mindfulness, mind-body-eco-spirit health, visionary leadership, empowerment and artful collaboration through a new world view.**

**Our Motto: When one helps another, BOTH become stronger!**