



Justice  
Coalition of  
Religious

# PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health,  
including in the context of conflict

20 April - 1 May 2026





# JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 24 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). Congregations of Religious sustain the long-standing tradition of serving people who experience the marginalisation, oppression, and vulnerability resulting from unjust global systems. At the grassroots, Sisters, Brothers, priests, and their mission partners are leaders in the provision of essential services. While these efforts offer vital temporary assistance, our common home cries out for lasting global transformation, a transformation that requires addressing the root causes of human and environmental suffering. We are thereby called to the work of advocacy.

JCoR coordinates the efforts of Religious and their ministry partners - across more than 100 countries - in pursuit of our common mission: *To facilitate collaboration among members and partners of Catholic Religious congregations working at the grassroots and at the United Nations in order to: (1) strengthen one another's capacity for advocacy and (2) advocate collectively for social, economic, and environmental justice and peace in international, regional, and national fora.*

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the Universal Human Rights Framework, JCoR envisions a just and peaceful world where the dignity of every person, particularly the most marginalized, and the sanctity of all creation are upheld. In this world, all people can fully participate in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of society, working together to foster the common good. We strive to realise this future world by coordinating the efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!



# WHAT IS THE UNPFII25?

The [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII) was established in 2000 as a response to sustained advocacy by Indigenous Peoples for a permanent, high-level body at the UN. The Forum holds a mandate to advise the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the concerns of Indigenous Peoples and on the policies and programs that affect Indigenous communities worldwide.

Serving as a vital platform, the UNPFII enables Indigenous Peoples to raise issues, share their perspectives, and participate in decision-making on topics such as culture, environment, health, human rights, and economic and social development. More specifically, the Forum:

- Promotes respect for and full application of the provisions of the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP);
- Raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous Peoples across the UN system;
- Prepares and disseminates information on matters concerning Indigenous Peoples;
- Provides expert advice and recommendations to ECOSOC.

The Forum continues to play a crucial role in ensuring that Indigenous voices are heard and their rights are protected through dialogue, collaboration, and global visibility. This year, the UN will convene the 25th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues ([UNPFII25](#)), with a special emphasis on the central theme of “**Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ health, including in the context of conflict.**”

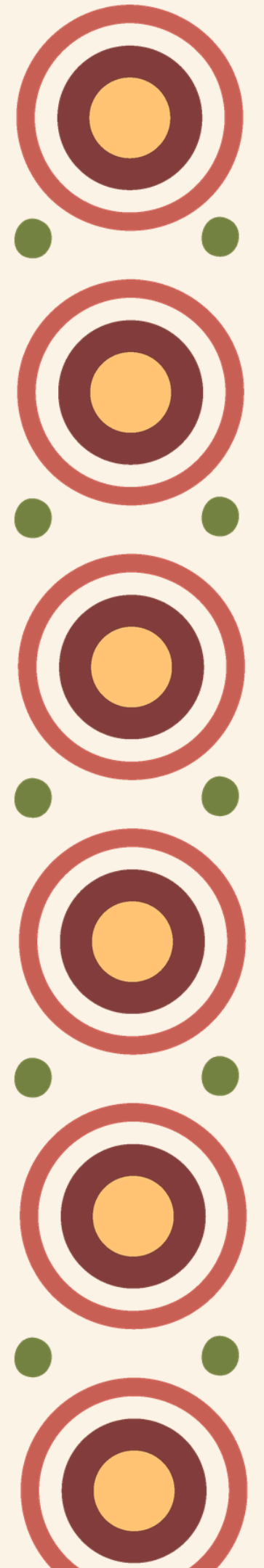
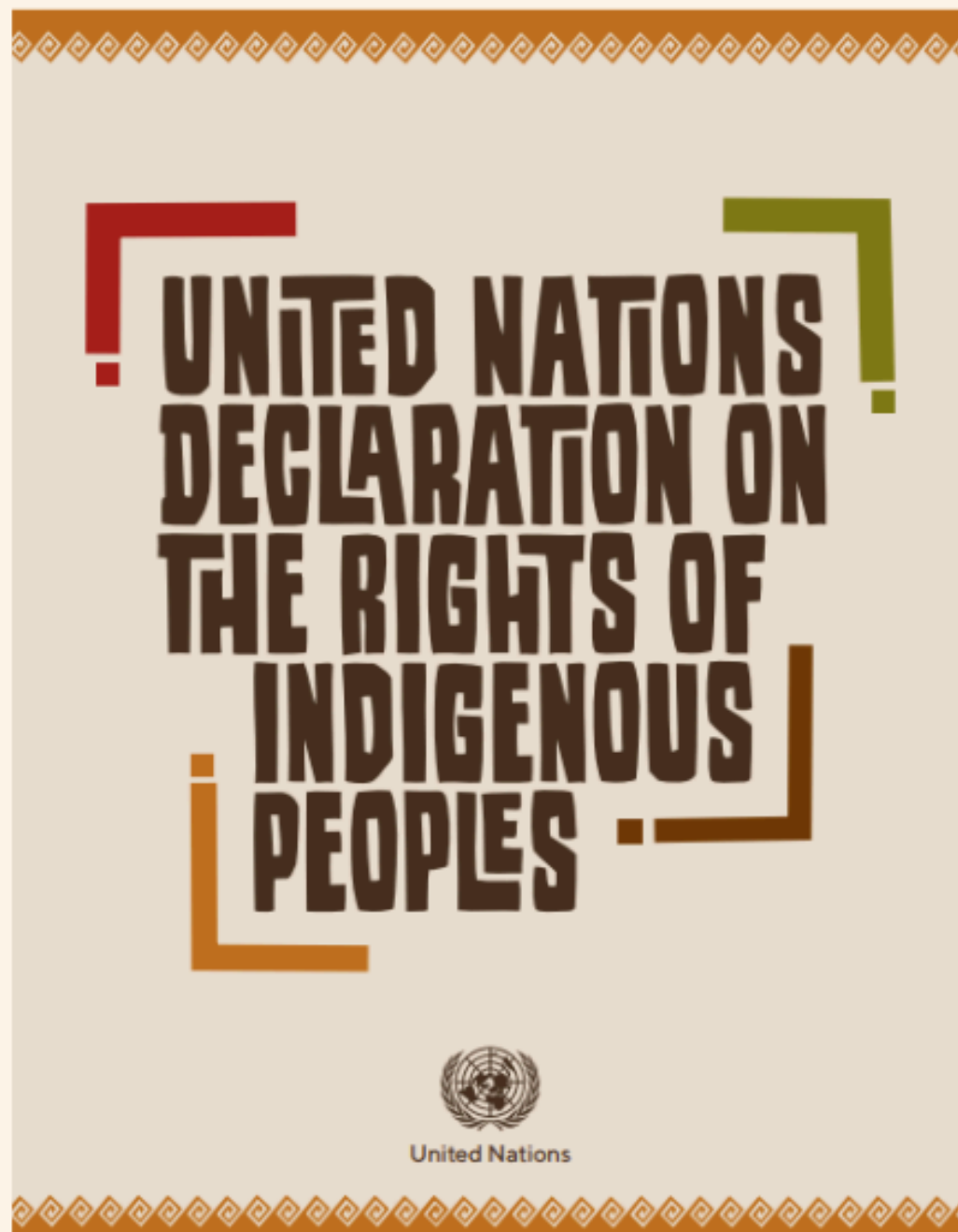


# WHAT IS THE UNDRIP ?

The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, is a statement affirming the rights of Indigenous Peoples around the world. It establishes a universal framework - or global standard - for the treatment of Indigenous communities, recognizing, protecting, and promoting their individual and collective rights and ensuring the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

Fundamental provisions of UNDRIP include the rights to self-determination, land and resource ownership, and free, prior and informed consent before initiating any project relating to Indigenous territories. The Declaration also emphasizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples to maintain their cultural traditions, languages, and institutions; to participate in decision-making processes; and to pursue development in accordance with their own needs and ambitions.

Although UNDRIP is not legally binding (meaning UN Member States are not required to implement it) it carries substantial moral and political weight. The Declaration influences laws, policies, and agreements across the globe. In addition, it serves as a significant advocacy tool, empowering Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights and hold governments and institutions accountable. Ultimately, UNDRIP represents a critical step toward recognizing the dignity, rights, and contributions of Indigenous peoples to the global community.



# ESSENTIAL DETAILS

## WHEN

20 April - 1 May 2026

## WHERE

United Nations Headquarters in New York

- Opening Session: General Assembly Hall
- 20 April: Conference room to be confirmed
- 21 to 23 April: Conference Room 3
- 24 April - 1 May: Conference Room 4

## FOLLOW ONLINE

Join online to follow the proceedings of UNPFII25 at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org) (streamed in multiple languages)

## SCHEDULE

Click on the following link to view the [programme of work](#)

## SIDE EVENTS

The list of side events (those being held inside the UN and those outside the UN) was not available at the time of the production of this guide. Please refer to the [official UNPFII25 website](#) for the most up-to-date information on side events.



[Click here to visit the official UNPFII25 website](#)

## INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

If you are planning to participate in the Forum, it is essential to review the [Information Note](#). This document contains everything you need to ensure effective and smooth participation - before and during the many meetings. It includes key details on registering for the list of speakers, picking up event passes, available services, and other important logistical information.

# RECOMMENDED EVENTS

Please visit [JCoR's UNPFII25 webpage](#) to access a curated list of UNPFII parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the UN in New York.

[Click here to access our event list](#)



# ADDITIONAL EVENTS



## Global Indigenous Women's Caucus

17 April 2026, 9:00am- 3:00pm (New York time)

In-person event held at the Church Center of the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza)

For event details, please visit the [American Indian Law Alliance website](#).

## Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus

18-19 April 2026, 9:00am-3:00pm (New York time)

*In-person event held at the Church Center of the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza)*

For event details, please visit the [American Indian Law Alliance website](#).

## Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

19 April 2026, time TBC

1 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

## Cultural Event, Exhibition Opening and Reception

21 April 2026, 6:30pm-9:30pm (New York time)

*In-person event held at the Sputnik Area, United Nations Headquarters, Visitor's Lobby*

This year's theme is "Walking with the Earth - Nomadic Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Wisdom, and Global Futures." Those who have already registered for this year's UNPFII session and obtained a UN ground pass are welcome to attend. Please [click here](#) for more details.

## Indigenous Peoples Craft Fair

22 April 2026, 9:00am-4:00pm (New York time)

*In-person event held at the Church Center (777 United Nations Plaza)*

For inquiries regarding these events, please contact the organizers directly at [aila.united.nations@gmail.com](mailto:aila.united.nations@gmail.com). For more details, please visit [AILA's website](#).



WHO TO TAG & FOLLOW ON

# SOCIAL MEDIA

#UNPFII25

#WeAreIndigenous

For additional social media resources, including logos, graphics, and messages, visit the official [Trello page](#) for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Justice Coalition of Religious

Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#) LinkedIn: [JCoR2030](#)

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Facebook: [@unpfii](#) Instagram: [@un4indigenous](#)

NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Facebook: [@NGOCORIP](#)

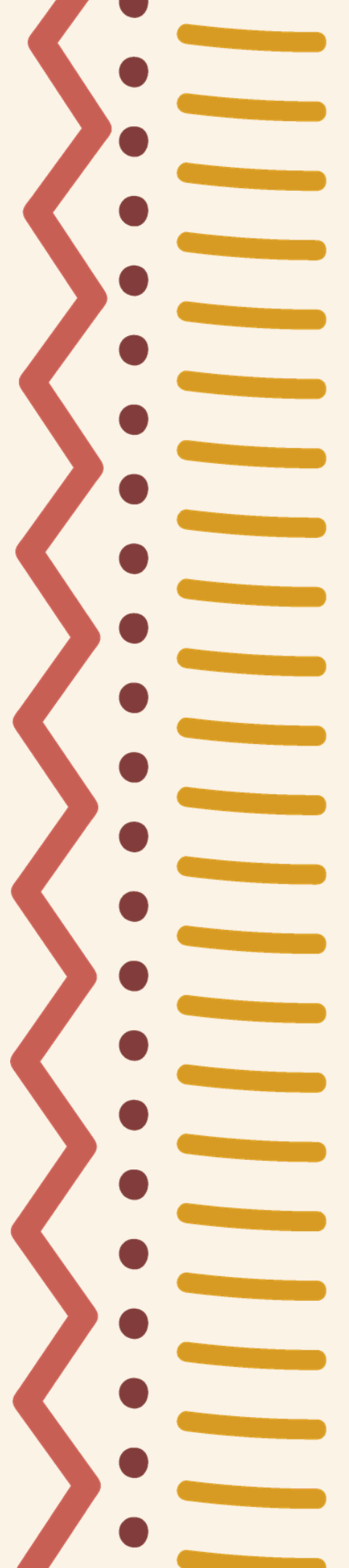
Indigenous Peoples' Major Group for Sustainable Development

Facebook: [@IPMGSDG](#)

Your Congregation's NGO at the United Nations

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

Your government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations





# JOIN US IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

## Let us pray...

Creator and Sustainer of all life,

You shaped humanity from the dust of the earth and breathed into us Your living Spirit.

From every land, every language, and every lineage, You call us into sacred communion—with You, and with one another.

We offer our gratitude and reverence for the Indigenous Peoples of the world.

We thank You for their enduring stewardship of sacred traditions, ancestral wisdom, vibrant cultures, and living languages.

In their care for Creation, we glimpse the richness of diversity and the boundless depth of Your love.

Yet too often, the voices of Indigenous Peoples have been silenced, their rights denied, their lands seized, and their dignity disregarded.

Help us to acknowledge these injustices, past and present, and move with sincerity toward healing.

Strengthen our commitment to lift up Indigenous voices with reverence and resolve.

Inspire the leaders of nations and all who gather - especially during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues -

to listen with humility, engage with integrity, and act with courage and compassion.

Empower policymakers and those who advocate to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, to honor their sovereignty, and to ensure that no vision of progress comes at the expense of Indigenous lives, lands, or cultures.

May we become faithful stewards of this Earth and all its sacred gifts, so that future generations may inherit a world rooted in justice, equality, and love.

Let our voices rise strong, our actions speak boldly, and our hearts remain steadfast in the work of solidarity.

**Amen.**