

2012: GERMANTOWN FRIENDS MEETING
MINUTE OF SUPPORT
FOR
UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Affirming our testimonies of peace and equality, we seek to live in just and equitable peace with our fellow human beings, both as individuals and as peoples. We recognize the early role of Philadelphia Quakers in the history of relations between Friends and the Indigenous peoples of North America. We desire to continue the legacy of William Penn's quest for right relationship with Indigenous peoples by working to improve understanding of and support for indigenous peoples and their rights.

We of the Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends thereby here minute our approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which has now received official endorsement from nations around the world. We call on other meetings as well as the full Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to likewise show their support by considering a minute of approval.

This Declaration affirms the fundamental rights of Indigenous peoples to exist as unique cultural groups. Indigenous peoples have rights to their homelands, resources, spiritual practices, languages, and cultural practices, and to self-government. We honor the inalienable rights that sustain the existence of indigenous peoples.