

## Global Citizenship

### Indigenous Perspective to Global Citizenship -Issues

Hello my name is Ta'Kaiya Blaney, I am a Sliammon Nation Native American. My ancestral name given to me by my Kookpa, my grandfather, is Jegajimouxw. Jegajimouxw was a speaker, a revolutionary, and a defender for the rights of our people. Today I stand before you doing my best to give that name justice.

I am an environmentalist and advocate for indigenous rights because I believe Indigenous peoples play a crucial role in the climate change dialogue, arrived resolutions and movements taking place. This is considering that most areas of corporate interest for industrial operations massively contributing to climate change exist on indigenous territory. Which it why it is crucial our Indigenous communities receive the resources and education to mobilize as Global Citizens combatting climate change and poverty in our nations.

I come from a childhood of feeling like help was never coming for my people. With our governments continuing to utilize institutional mechanisms of violence and oppression to reinforce confining situations and destructive social cycles. Indigenous peoples everywhere are disproportionately afflicted by poverty, housing, drug, education and cultural-loss problems. But the biggest problem, I would say is the feeling of powerlessness and despair. The defeated attitude I spent my life witnessing within my first nations community. An attitude that stems from loss of the land of which caring for has been our purpose for thousands of years. The loss of mountains that we culturally attributed personhood to, the sleeping giants, our visible ancestors, sacred areas, lost to industry in a parallel of industrial devastation and cultural devastation, two strands in a tangled braid of suffering. We witness not only the loss of rivers that are the lifeblood of our land and people but the loss of language, wisdom, sacred frameworks that we used to view the importance and sanctity

When making change we understand that there is strength in numbers. And we can't move forward if we are leaving entire communities behind. Which is so easy to do, if we as organizations don't first and foremost establish programs contributing resources and information to empower all these different communities in constructing their own future and solutions. If we fail in this effort to include the voices and values of the grassroots, the youth, the indigenous, of ordinary citizens, we fail to inspire the excitement and effort of the people that is crucial in making the program sustainable. As indigenous, frontline, minority communities under pressure, we stand on the shoulders of monumental giants, perseverant movers and shakers that came before

us that propelled our narrative from victim to resilient, that engendered our revolutions. And the momentum of those revolutions can only continue when worldwide movements with the objective of extinguishing conditions of despair; such as poverty and environmental degradation are diverse and inclusive. We ignite the vehicle of change by not just inviting other communities to our table, but coming back down to a earth, meeting at a common ground and having a conversation.

Our agents of change need to push against the wall of our paradigm with the strength of who they are. As an indigenous person watching native-american protests I saw how we would show up to the house of parliament with our megaphone and rally signs in one hand and our sacred eagle feathers in the other. That is the strength of who we are. As musicians, artists, writers, creative revolutionaries we push down the walls of ignorance with the might of the pen, the spark of imagination and change. That is the strength of who we are.

We represent where we come from as people and we do what we love to protect what we love....Because that's what true change looks like.

Because encouraging mutual understanding and support of communities worldwide , this concept of global citizenship doesn't have to mean sameness, attached to it isn't a standard for what our solutions should universally resemble. We emphasize on our culture, the story of where we come from with respect and pride, and create custom made solutions that can take root in the hearts of the families, youth, decision makers and ordinary citizens of our communities.

In this generation we are on the precipice of absolute environmental catastrophe and and this is one of the the pivotal challenges that will define our generational capabilities combating said issues as the people and the planet of today. And all that said, I am excited about the future. So bring your crazy plans, unreasonable, ambitious ideas, naive notions of changing the world, bring your ancestors with you, bring the old ways, bring the new ways, bring your justice bring your music and together lets teach the history books of tomorrow a lesson in doing what is fundamentally right. Because we need those crazy ideas to match our crazy times.