



Indigenous Women Mentoring (IWOMen) Program

The IWOMen or Indigenous Women Mentoring is one of the flagship programs of LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights).

This is a comprehensive learning program that will cover human rights, women's rights, indigenous peoples rights; theories of feminism, of indigenism; climate justice; basic concepts of economics; relevant laws and policies on natural resources and social justice.

There will also be skills training on public speaking, basic advocacy and campaigning tools and organizational development. There will be a curriculum which will be developed along with organizations which have expertise and special focus on each of the issues.

A group of 13 indigenous women leaders from different communities will be the first set of the mentors. The sessions will run for 2 weeks a month, for 8 months. The program is comprised of 5 sessions; the first two have commenced.

An Indigenous Feminist School

IWOMen's strategy is to directly partner with organizations and get endorsement as to who participates in the program. The leaders are expected to return to their communities and become effective organizers for indigenous women's advocacies.

The design of the program is specifically to set an environment of critical thinking and decolonizing and engendering the issues and methods used by the participants as leaders.

IWOMen's specifically long-term designed learning and participatory pedagogy builds the empowerment of participants and consistently encourage their own critical thinking even of previously learned topics.

The Indigenous Women Self-care

On the topic of self care as a strategy for sustaining indigenous women's leadership, the goal is to document and recognize the women's indigenous ways of caring for oneself and nurturing the soul. There were lots of interesting stories from listening and laughing with certain birds of the forest to finding a few moments of solitude by the river to recharge from the increasing burdens onto indigenous women. On the course of taking care of one's health despite the challenges, we came upon how indigenous peoples' food and diet based on rootcrops have been doing them really well compared to lower fiber diets of others. The participants were surprised to hear that while they were trading their root crops cheaply for the 'luxury' of pearly white rice, it was them who were all along richer in food and nourishment. And how grateful was the tone of the participants' comment. It was a powerful moment of decolonizing our ideas of what is best for our bodies and recognizing indigenous knowledge in food security.



LILAK
(PURPLE ACTION FOR INDIGENOUS
WOMEN'S RIGHTS)

IWoMen Curriculum

The curriculum was developed by the participants themselves from their shared objectives coming into the program. IWoMen facilitated and dedicated a session on feminist and indigenous pedagogy and methodology which aimed to share ownership of the program by all: be it LILAK, participants, participants' represented organizations and communities, facilitators and support people. Analytical skill is highlighted in the agreed methods to realize the curriculum. The participative method of bringing about the study program and learning methods is essential in the implementation of the program to empower the indigenous women and their communities.

Session 1 - Feminist Indigenous Pedagogy

- Day 1 - Knowledge, Reality, and Methodology of Indigenous Women; Popular Education
- Day 2 - Methods of the Indigenous Women Leader
- Day 3 - Analysis of Self and Objectives of IWoMen
- Day 4 - Workshop on IWoMen Curriculum
- Day 5 - Basic Concepts of Human Rights; Advocacy Tactics in the Community

Session 2 - I am a woman

- Day 1 - Gender and Sexuality; Intersectionality and Identity Politics
- Day 2 - Zero Extreme Poverty Forum
- Day 3 - Feminist Theories
- Day 4 - Herstory of Women's Movement
- Day 5 - Situation of Women: Different Women's Sectors

Session 3 - I am an indigenous person

Topics

1. Colonization and Indigenous Peoples: I am an indigenous woman
2. History of Indigenous Sovereignty
3. Culture, Indigenous Peoples, and Society
4. Public Speaking and Communication
5. I am a feminist indigenous woman
6. Natural Resources

Session 4 - Rights of an Indigenous Woman

Topics

1. Government Mechanisms
2. Laws on Women and Indigenous Peoples
3. International Mechanisms for Women and Indigenous Peoples
4. Mediation and Negotiation
5. Lobbying
6. Food Sovereignty
7. Climate Justice

Session 5 - The Indigenous Women Leader

Topics

1. Legal Structures and Mechanisms
2. Paralegal Mechanisms for Indigenous Women Leaders
3. Using IPRA in the Community
4. Charter Change
5. Feminist Organizing

Ang Buhay Ko

Hindi nakapag-aral ng kolehiyo ay tunay na kulang sa kaalaman, nahihiyang humarap at makilahok sa maraming tao na may mataas na antas ng pinag-aralan ngunit dahil nangangarap madadagdagan at matututo ng iba pang kaalaman, ay naglakas loob akong tawiring ang karagatan at maglakbay ng daan na hindi narating at hindi alam..

Nalulungkot iwan ng pamilya dahil wala ng kahit ano pa man sa loob ng tahanan ngunit naging masaya dahil nandiyan kayo, gabay sa akin mga nakilalang bagong kaibigan nagbahagi ng karanasan at kaalaman na pwede kong matutunan at ibahagi ko rin sa aming pamayanan at samahan sana nga hindi lang ito kundi marami pa na pwedeng maging karagdagan...



Ailyn Antonio wrote Ang Buhay Ko (My Life) in her journal during the second session of the IWoMen program. In her piece she likened the program to braving the ocean and journeying on unfamiliar land - all for a dream of gaining new knowledge

Ailyn Antonio

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