

PEP Supports the Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth

At its September 2021 Board meeting Promoting Enduring Peace put endorsement of the anti-capitalist “Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth” right into its By-laws.

From both the latest science and traditional wisdom, we know our planet is special and worth fiercely protecting. What would our society look like if we strove to protect not just human rights but also the rights of the Earth and nonhuman beings?

Here's the preamble from the Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth approved by 35,000 people who gathered in Bolivia in 2010.

We, the peoples and nations of Earth: considering that we are all part of Mother Earth, an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings with a common destiny;

gratefully acknowledging that Mother Earth is the source of life, nourishment and learning and provides everything we need to live well;

recognizing that the capitalist system and all forms of depredation, exploitation, abuse and contamination have caused great destruction, degradation and disruption of Mother Earth, putting life as we know it today at risk through phenomena such as climate change;

convinced that in an interdependent living community it is not possible to recognize the rights of only human beings without causing an imbalance within Mother Earth;

affirming that to guarantee human rights it is necessary to recognize and defend the rights of Mother Earth and all beings in her and that there are existing cultures, practices and laws that do so;

conscious of the urgency of taking decisive, collective action to transform structures and systems that cause climate change and other threats to Mother Earth;

proclaim this Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and call on the General Assembly of the United Nation to adopt it, as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations of the world, and to the end that every individual and institution takes responsibility for promoting through teaching, education, and consciousness raising, respect for the rights recognized in this Declaration and ensure through prompt and progressive measures and mechanisms, national and international, their universal and effective recognition and observance among all peoples and States in the world.



“Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth”