

iCIPR

International Committee of indigenous peoples of Russia



**SOCIETY FOR
THREATENED
PEOPLES**



IWGIA

Cultural  Survival

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Pre-Session prior to the 44th Working Group on the
Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council

28 August - 1 September 2023



INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES'
RIGHTS

The Russian Federation is home to **46 legally recognized Indigenous Peoples** and a number of ethnic groups that while meeting the characteristics of Indigenous Peoples are not legally recognized as such by the State.

Indigenous Peoples' rights are **continually violated** as the State defines who is Indigenous in culturally inappropriate and inaccessible ways and as our homelands experience development without our consent.

Regulation of and limitations to access to traditional ways of life, along with environmental destruction, violate Indigenous Peoples' rights to sustainable livelihoods, health, and nutritious food.

The rights being violated are enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Articles 3, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 32.



PREVIOUS
RELEVANT UPR
RECOMMEN-
DATIONS

**The recommendations,
which have not been meaningfully implemented:**

- **Nicaragua, Third Cycle:**

Step up efforts to promote and preserve the languages of Indigenous Peoples, including through the education system and via the adoption of relevant measures to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

- **South Africa, Third Cycle:**

Strengthen the legal framework to ensure the sustainable socioeconomic and cultural development of indigenous peoples.

- **Bolivia, Third Cycle:**

Continue strengthening policies for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

Access to services for women who experience domestic violence has been hard to come by for women since a 2017 law decriminalized some acts of domestic violence. The Russian Federation is doing little to protect the rights of Indigenous women or to provide Indigenous women and girls access to education or healthcare. Indigenous women in Russia also face disproportionate challenges to their health, which the growing climate crisis has further exacerbated.



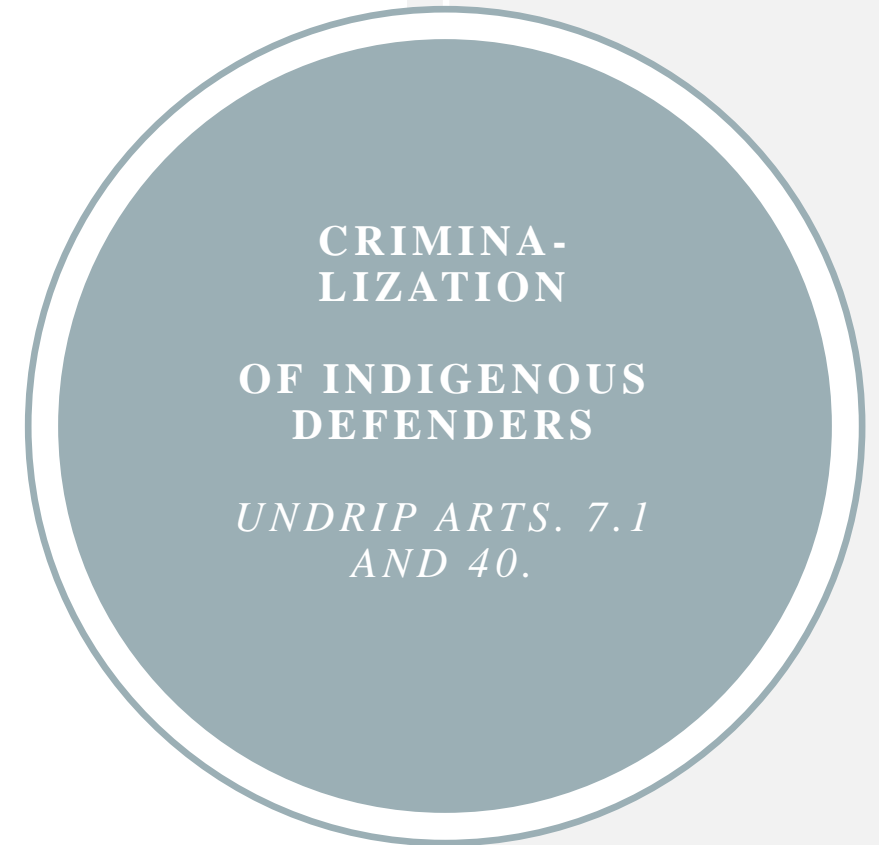
**INDIGENOUS
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS**

*UNDRIP ARTS.
21, 22*

The Russian government uses intimidation tactics like the threat of criminal prosecution to dissuade Indigenous rights activists.

On December 1, 2022, the law “On Control Over Activities of Entities/Persons Under Foreign Influence,” a new legislation related to the existing “foreign agent” law, was passed.

Many Indigenous representatives who participate in public forums that are critical of Russia, e.g. public interventions at the UN events, are met with smear campaigns or pressure from the police, FSB (Federal Security Service), or their employers when they return to Russia and are at risk of being labeled “foreign agents”.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Endorse and implement the UNDRIP and ratify ILO 169.
- Ensure Indigenous Peoples can self-determine their members by consulting with them on practices for federal registration of individuals belonging to Indigenous Peoples. Provide resources for this process and remove artificial bureaucratic barriers to free self-identification.
- Put an end to the practice of declaring NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' organizations as "foreign agents" and establish a legal framework to allow them to operate independently.
- Ensure access to traditional food and nutrition, high quality healthcare, including emergency services and services for Indigenous women in remote areas, in every Indigenous community. Make these available in culturally appropriate formats, including for small nomadic communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure access to education in every Indigenous community, in their languages, including via formats adapted to the needs of small and nomadic communities, to ensure that Indigenous children are not separated from their families, ways of life, or languages.
- Ensure Indigenous Peoples have priority access to biological resources, fishing sites, and hunting grounds, as guaranteed in the national legislation, without unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles and in consultation with Indigenous Peoples.
- Guarantee Indigenous Peoples' unrestricted use of their lands and territories and legislate the obligation to apply Free, Prior and Informed Consent in any activity on the lands, territories, and waters of Indigenous Peoples.
- Develop and implement a climate change mitigation program in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, supporting their traditional ways of life and traditional economic activities and considering regional specifics.



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THANK YOU!