

Amnesty International at Arizona State University – West Campus

4701 W. Thunderbird Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85069

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
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Send letters, postcards and petitions to the Government of Canada and to one or more of the other three governments that have played a critical role in the debate around the draft Declaration – Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Write in your own words, making the following points:

1. Effective international standards are urgently needed to help ensure that the human rights of Indigenous peoples are recognized, protected and promoted in every region of the world.
2. Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a vital first step towards addressing this need.
3. All states should commit to working closely with Indigenous peoples' organizations to ensure that, before the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People ends this December, real progress is made towards the adoption of a strong and effective Declaration.
4. To ensure that the Declaration sets a strong and effective minimum standard, states should commit to the following basic principles:
 - The standards in the Declaration must apply equally and fully to all states. States should not seek to insert text such as "subject to national legislation" which would allow national laws and policies to take precedence over the standards set by the Declaration.
 - The Declaration must build on established rights and their progressive interpretation. States should not support text that would in any way lower the standard for the protection of Indigenous peoples' rights.
 - The Declaration must not entrench discrimination against Indigenous peoples. States should oppose text that would impose unique and arbitrary restrictions on Indigenous peoples' enjoyment of recognized universal human rights, such as the already-established right to self-determination.

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The Honourable Alexander Downer
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The Right Honourable Jack Straw
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
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The Honorable Colin L. Powell
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