



On the occasion of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, FIMI and UN Women announce the launch of a Global Study on the situation of Indigenous Women and Girls within the context of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The year 2020 marks an important milestone in the lives of all women and girls. Therefore, in partnership with UN Women, the International Indigenous Women's Forum has produced a Global Study on the situation of indigenous women and girls as a contribution to taking stock of the gains and challenges associated with the global implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action over the past 25 years.

The study compiles indigenous women's grassroots, national and regional experiences and the findings are a firm illustration of the different capacities that indigenous women have occupied as agents of change. The findings also reveal deeping gaps in access to social services and participation in public life, as well as risks of violence and deprivation of ancestral lands, territories and resources.

A virtual launch of the Global Study will take place on September 28th 2020 from 10am-11am EST within the framework of the official commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations during the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

SOME DATA POINTS

- In Canada, Inuit women have the lowest levels of educational attainment and less than one-third of women aged 15 and older (29 percent have a post-secondary education. For First Nations and Metis women, this stands at 39 percent and 49 percent respectively (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2019).
- In the Americas, indigenous women continue to be underrepresented in political spaces, both in elected and appointed positions. Despite the increase in women's representation in national parliaments (rising from 15 percent to 31 percent in the region between 2002 and 2019), it does not necessarily integrate diversity or reach all areas of representation.
- The practice of Female Genital Mutilation in some Kenyan communities tend to be very high, estimated at 94 percent in Somali, 86 percent in Samburu, 84 percent in Kisi and 78 percent Maasai (IWGIA 2019).
- In New Zealand, the unemployment rate is highest among Pacific and Maori women and the employment rate for Maori men and Maori women by 2014 was 64.6 percent and 53.3 percent respectively (Dhir, 2015).
- Front Line Defenders report that 304 human rights defenders were killed in 2019 alone globally, 13 percent of whom were women and 40 percent were engaged in land rights and environmental rights.
- Mental health issues and high suicide rates are critical issues among indigenous peoples living in the Arctic region. A 2018 study on the well-being among Indigenous children and youth in the Arctic indicated that compared to the Nordic majority populations, young Sámi



and Inuit in Greenland experience a higher degree of violence, abuse, suicidal thoughts and suicidal rates (Ingemann and Lytken, 2018).