

Indigenous Freedom

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When answering *What does a just world look like?* many thoughts come to mind. All of these thoughts are underpinned with a simple concept – Indigenous freedom¹.

Indigenous freedom means dismantling political, social and economic policies and structures that are weaved with racism. I think about the ability to restore our connection to the land and to live a peaceful co-existence with non-Indigenous peoples². I think about a world where we are given equal chances to thrive without the stereotypes which prevent us from realizing our profound potential.

Indigenous freedom means birthing future generations of Indigenous peoples who don't have to face the impacts of disconnected relationships. They will be strong in who they are and where they come from, who their relatives are, what their history is, and where their nations are going. And they will be proud.

Indigenous freedom encompasses the importance of exercising our sovereignty as Indigenous peoples. This means a return to our systems of governance, and our traditional ways of healing ourselves and our communities. Our mother earth, when we protect and nurture her, sustains us and all our relations. By planting ourselves in the truth about who we are, I believe in a future where our collective voices are heard and respected. Where we are not removed from our ancestral lands through arrests, violence and injury, and our people are set up to succeed. I believe in a world where this is possible.

There is power in the small actions you can take; attending a solidarity walk, supporting Indigenous groups making positive impacts in their communities, and speaking the truth even

¹ This concept is further explored in Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's book *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom Through Radical Resistance*

² These two concepts are discussed in more depth in *Whose Land Is It Anyway: A Manual for Decolonization* (McFarlane & Schabus, 2017)

when your voice is shaking. Because it is through all of us taking these steps in our lives, within our circles of influence, that real change can start to happen.

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