LEADERSHIP AWARD

Faces of resilience: Leaders for change
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

About the Leadership Award

Since 2013, the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) has awarded its "Leadership Award" in recognition of women or groups of Indigenous Women who, through their work, commitment and responsibility, bring about significant changes for their community or beyond.

In this year 2021, we dedicate FIMI's Leadership Award in honour of the resilience, collective strength and leadership of Indigenous Women organized in the fight against COVID-19. With this award, we seek to highlight the importance of recognizing the actions carried out by Indigenous Women and Peoples in their territories to face the pandemic, as well as of including a comprehensive and culturally adequate approach in the prevention and care mechanisms promoted by governments and other decision makers in indigenous territory in the context of the COVID-19.

COVID-19 has exposed the historical structural inequalities experienced by Indigenous Women, who are among the groups most at risk due to the particular conditions in which Indigenous Peoples live, as outlined by the report produced by FIMI on the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of Indigenous Women (2020). The pandemic puts Indigenous Women on alert, as it brings out situations that have to do with (i) the loss of spaces of spirituality, culture and intergenerational transmission of knowledge; (ii) the increasing workload of women for family care and other chores; (iii) a lack of food and negative effects on productive systems, marketing and employment; (iv) an increase in violence and racism towards Indigenous Women; (v) the impacts on Indigenous Youth; (vi) the closure of schools and limited access to technology; (vii) the effect on mental health; and (viii) the displacements and limitations to reach the communities (International Indigenous Women's Forum, 2020). All of this directly affects the full exercise of the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Women.

However, far from giving up, Indigenous Women stand up as the main caretakers of our environment and livelihoods in our communities. In this
sense, we consider it essential to highlight the particular contributions and strategies that Indigenous Women have used to face the pandemic, seeing as they have proved to be resilient, adopting innovative, creative measures based on the ancestral knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples. In this way, under their leadership, community processes have been implemented to try to resolve the issues brought on by the pandemic, such as the measures of community distancing, the celebration of rituals, traditional medicine, the practice of reciprocity and community solidarity, outreach campaigns on COVID-19 in Indigenous languages, provision of food, advocacy with governments and intercultural protocols through which Indigenous Women are made to be seen. At the onset of the pandemic (2020), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues urged the States to take the necessary measures to protect Indigenous Peoples, also pointing out that they could contribute to finding solutions with their healing practices and traditional knowledge. And this is demonstrated by the Indigenous Women who have implemented strategies to empower their peoples and communities.

**Objectives of the Call**

To recognize and reward the leadership of organized Indigenous Women who, through their work, commitment and responsibility, have implemented community processes to face the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, to strengthen the leadership of Indigenous Women regarding unexpected situations that require their response.

**Lines of Action**

The community initiatives implemented by Indigenous Women’s organizations in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to be framed in some of the following lines of action:

- Application of responsible governance standards and ancestral community knowledge.
- Awareness building, training, education and communication about COVID-19.
- Measures to face food insecurity and creating the conditions for sustainability during the crisis.

- Prioritizing the eradication of violence and the resolution of conflicts in times of a pandemic.

- Organizational strengthening, coordination and alliances with other sectors.

- Urging governments to respond to the crisis in indigenous communities.

- Community protocols adopted with the participation of Indigenous Women.

**Profile of the Candidates for the Award**

Organized Indigenous Women who are part of a community of indigenous or tribal peoples from Asia, Africa and LAC, with significant achievements from community actions led to face the COVID-19 pandemic and whose leadership, commitment and responsibility was fundamental in the development of the initiative. Applications for initiatives from non-indigenous organizations, NGOs or state institutions will not be accepted.

**Characteristics of a Successful Practice**

The successful practice must have been led collectively in community, for the benefit of a group or a community. The successful practice must have brought positive changes in the community, mitigating the spread of COVID-19, or strengthening the community’s well-being or regeneration.

**About the Award**

Three prizes of USD 13,000 (Thirteen thousand US dollars) each will be awarded to the winning organizations, one for each region (LAC, Asia and Africa).
To Apply for the Award

To apply for the award, you must fill out the form found through this link: https://cutt.ly/anJGRBd, and email it to n.fenly@iiwf.org along with the following documents:

- Record of the formation of your organization's Board of Directors
- Attach any photographs or other documentation that you consider pertinent to support your application, such as testimonials, life stories or links to newspaper or magazine articles documenting your activities
- Two recommendation letters from partner organizations involved in your process
- Cover letter

Selection of Candidates

The evaluation of the applications will be in charge of a selection committee made up of Indigenous Women with outstanding international experience in the field of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and defence of the land, who will assess the relevance of the practice presented.