

IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

International Affairs Committee

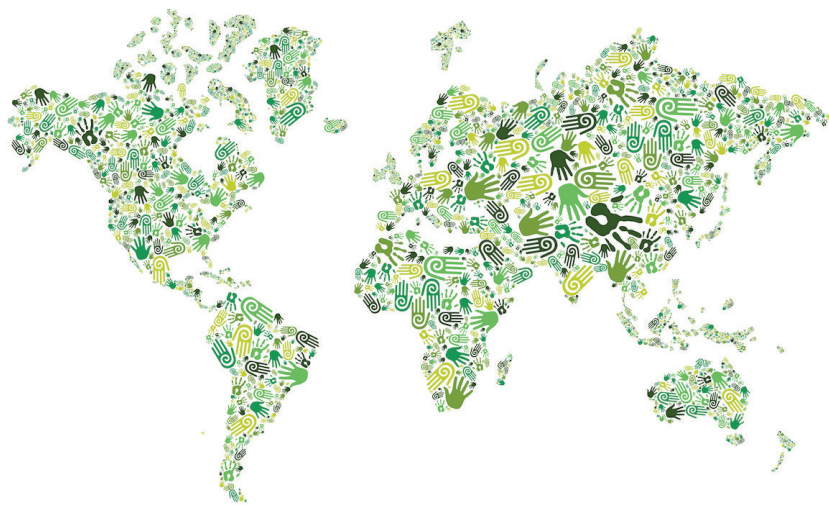
2017 Edition Vol. 4

*I cry aloud to God, aloud that God may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying*
Psalm 77:1–3a

Indigenous People in Guatemala

On every continent, Indigenous people experience disproportionate levels of poverty, poor health, discrimination and exclusion from political and economic decision-making. In many areas around the world there are large gaps between human rights commitments and the lived realities of Indigenous people. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most comprehensive human rights instrument concerning Indigenous peoples. Implementation is imperative to protecting the rights and improving the well-being of Indigenous people.

In Guatemala, 73% of the Indigenous population is poor and 26% is extremely poor, compared to 35% of non-Indigenous people who



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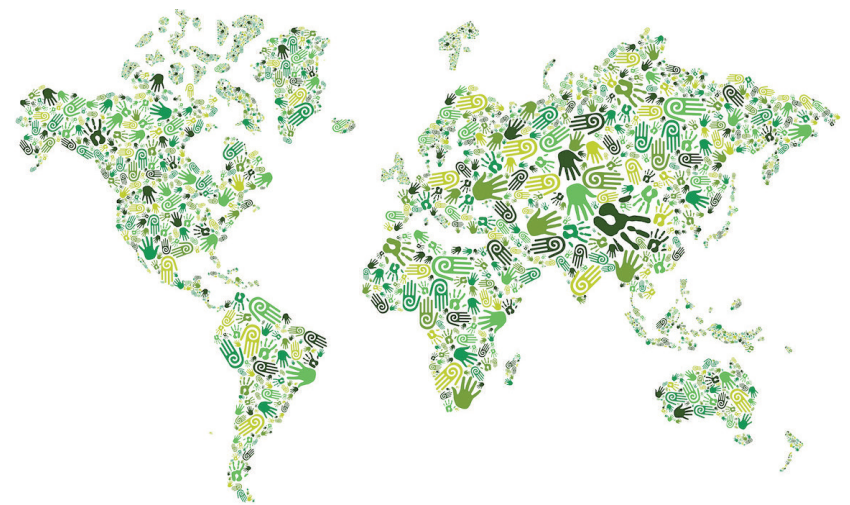
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are poor. The struggle between the Indigenous population and different levels of government regarding the right to be consulted without fear of repercussions manifests itself daily in Guatemala. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is working to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous women and men through partnerships with Maya-Mam Association of Research and Development and the Fraternidad of Maya Presbyterials.



The Church Responds

Following the recommendation made by General Assembly, the Moderator wrote to our local partners to inquire if the Government of Guatemala's support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has resulted in improvements in the lives of Indigenous people and greater respect for their human rights. The Moderator also wrote to the Government of Canada urging that it encourage the Government of Guatemala to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Prayer

God of Justice, strengthen Indigenous people in Guatemala so they continue to claim their basic human rights without fear of repercussions.



The International Affairs Committee is mandated by General Assembly to monitor and draw the church's attention to international issues. Its full report is found in the Acts & Proceedings 2016.

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