

The Peoples of the World Foundation

Education for and about Indigenous Peoples

Annual Report 2019



The Bishnoi are one of the religious minority groups excluded from a controversial Citizenship Amendment Act in India in 2019.

Indigenous Peoples: 2019 in Review

Toward the end of 2019, China suddenly announced that all the indigenous Uighurs (estimated to number around a million people) formerly detained in “schools” there had “graduated.” Ostensibly, the timing – amid growing international condemnation – was coincidental. At the same time, we learned that Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro, may face allegations, at the International Criminal Court, of incitement to genocide against his country’s indigenous people. Yet, according to him, Greta

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Thunberg is a “little brat” for daring to bring attention to just one example of such incitement. In contrast, according to *TIME* magazine, she is the 2019 Person of the Year for such heroics.

At the same time and at the same International Criminal Court, the disgraced Aung San Suu Kyi faced actual allegations of genocide against her country’s indigenous Rohingya people.

Yale University opened an exhibit displaying 200 years of indigenous art including textiles,

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wood carvings and pottery from over forty indigenous groups. Also in the United States, New Mexico, Vermont and Maine became the latest states to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day – as did Cleveland City, Ohio and Alexandria, Virginia. After waiting almost two hundred years, the Cherokee people may finally get political representation in the US in the form of Kimberly Teehee being appointed to the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, its northern neighbor, Canada, approved expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline – sparking protests among indigenous people. It also published its report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It found that the country's social and justice systems massively failed its indigenous people. Additionally, the suicide rate of Canada's indigenous people is three times higher than that of non-indigenous people (and nine times higher for Inuit people) and 50% of its human trafficking victims are indigenous females.

New Zealand announced an inquiry of its own after local media uncovered alarmingly high incidences of indigenous babies being “uplifted” into institutionalized care.

In the Brazilian Amazon thousands of fires threatened the ancestral lands of hundreds of indigenous peoples. But in Hawaii, California and Australia steps were taken to preserve such lands.

Highlights

In 2019 our field assignments took us to India and Nepal. We added new content to our Web portal. We were active on social media.

Assignments

In 2019 we undertook field assignments in India, where we worked primarily with the Bhil people, and Nepal.



Traditional Dancing, India, 2019.



Doing Laundry the Traditional Way, Nepal, 2019.

Web Portal

In 2019 we continued our “tic-tac-toe” strategy for our Web portal. “Tic” involves keeping our portal up to date with information technology trends. “Tac” refers to the content on our portal. “Toe” is design — the user interface to, and user experience of, our portal.

Tic. We made minor technical changes to the implementation our Web portal in preparation for the next major technology upgrade cycle.

Tac. We continued to publish monthly opinion editorials about current, global events that affect indigenous people, with an accompanying photograph from our extensive archives. Opinion editorials are published on the first day of each month and are linked from our Web portal home page at:

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<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/>

We also published two new travel narrative stories: *The Gate of Delhi-rium* and *The Bishnoi Religious Sect, India*. They are available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/travelStory.jsp?travelStory=delhirium>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/travelStory.jsp?travelStory=bishnoi>

We also added to our Volunteer Abroad resource section with a new entry on volunteer opportunities in South Asia. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/volunteer.jsp?region=southasia>

We also published a new photo-ethnographic article about the Bhil people. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Bhil>



The Gate of Delhi-rium, India-Pakistan Border, 2019.

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A Bishnoi Woman, India, 2019.



A Bhil Woman, India, 2019.



Volunteer Opportunities Exist in Nepal.

Toe. 2019 was a “toe” year. We re-designed the Volunteer Abroad and Travel Narrative Stories sections of our Web portal’s user interface. This re-design makes it easier to locate volunteer opportunities and travel narrative stories by geographic region.

We also re-designed the listing of photo-ethnographic articles by languages spoken and by geographic region in those sections of our Web portal’s user interface. This re-design makes it easier to locate photo-ethnographic articles by language family and branch hierarchy as well as by geographic region and country hierarchy.

Social Media

Throughout 2019 we continued to regularly update our Facebook page with

announcements and news stories about and affecting indigenous people at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Peoples-of-the-World-Foundation/243657765700765>

Resources

Our Web portal continued to help fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples.” It was visited slightly less in 2019 than in 2018.

The resources on our Web portal continued to be used extensively by non-governmental organizations, non-profit and media organizations, government agencies, publishing companies, journalists, students and educators around the world.

Finances¹

Donations decreased in 2019 compared to 2018, falling by 64%.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2019 balance sheet (amounts are in US\$).

Income	490
Expenses	(415)
Balance	75

Table 1. 2019 balance sheet.

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, our directors – who personally funded our operating costs – our advisors and others who contributed their expertise, time, energy and resources in 2019.

¹ Financial data appearing in this report have not been audited by a Certified Public Accountant.

Plans for 2020

2020 will be a “Tic” year. We will upgrade many of the information technology platforms that implement our Web portal. We will also publish new content from our recent and upcoming assignments.

We will begin new field assignment work in East Asia and continue our work in Central America.