



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM OSLO



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NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM OSLO TO ADDRESS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Forum Oslo, “Across Dividing Lines”, will address indigenous rights within the context of social justice and environmental protection.

2017 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the 25th anniversary of Dr. Rigoberta Menchú Tum receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work for peace and reconciliation across ethnic, cultural and social dividing lines.

Still, across today’s world, the rights of indigenous peoples are frequently being challenged and disputed.

This is why the Norwegian Nobel Institute has invited Dr. Menchú Tum back to Oslo to give a keynote address reflecting upon the state of affairs concerning indigenous rights 25 years after her Nobel Peace Prize award. What progress has been made and what are the unsolved issues and pressing challenges ahead?

Following Dr. Menchú Tum’s address, the Forum will focus on two recent examples of intrastate conflict involving indigenous peoples over energy and environmental resources. More specifically, a six-member panel will discuss and compare the Standing Rock conflict in North Dakota, USA, where oil pipe-line interests have clashed with the rights of the Dakota/Lakota/Nakota peoples, and the Nussir coppermine controversy in the municipality of Kvalsund, Norway, which is affecting different parts of the indigenous Sami population of the region.

As the theme “Across Dividing Lines” suggests, this year’s Nobel Peace Prize Forum Oslo is intended not only to shed light upon the conflicts and interests at stake – but to also provide a platform for dialogue and experience-sharing.

“The need to work toward dialogue and reconciliation as alternatives to conflict escalation and violence is imperative”, Nobel Institute Director Olav Njølstad says. “Hopefully, the Forum will serve that purpose in a constructive way.” Rector Svein Stølen at the University of Oslo adds: “We are pleased that the University of Oslo can serve society by cooperating across sectors and by being an arena for dialogue.” He emphasizes that “academia’s role in society is to encourage deeper understanding, critical thinking and free speech, which is why dialogue is so important.”

The panel discussion will be moderated by Fred de Sam Lazaro, correspondent since 1986 for PBS NewsHour - one of the most trusted news broadcasts in the USA. The panel will include: Grand Chief Edward John, Expert Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues & Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation; HolyElk Lafferty, 4th Generation Lakota Activist; Stephanie Hope Smith, Sacred-Cultural Site Conciliator; Aili Keskitalo, President of the Sami Parliament; Elisabeth Gammelsæter, Secretary General of the Norwegian Mineral Industry; Øyvind Ravna, Professor of Law, University of Tromsø.

The Nobel Peace Prize Forum Oslo 2017 is organized by the Norwegian Nobel Institute and Nobel Peace Prize – Research and Information AS in partnership with the University of Oslo. The Forum, which takes place at the [Oslo University Aula](#) on December 11, is made possible by generous support from its events partners [New Generation Power](#) and [Peace Through Commerce](#).



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