

Short story on UN-Habitat ECOSOC Youth Forum Side Event: *Indigenous Youth Mental Health and Well Being*

Title: Indigenous Youth Mental Health and Well Being

Event: 10th ECOSOC Youth Forum

Date, time and platform: April 6th, 10.00am-11.55am EDT (New York time), 05.00pm-6.55pm EAT, via Zoom

Connection Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91048682272?pwd=bDZ2bVJUd1h1K00wMVZZdFJBNkVpdz09>

Event summary

Youth mental health and well-being is a crucial topic globally, particularly today, due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been greatly influenced by the increased loss of jobs, unemployment, lack of access to basic resources, increased inequality and uncertainty of the future among others. However, Indigenous young people across the world have limited access to such valuable discussions on mental health and wellbeing despite being the most vulnerable compared to non-native youth.

Statistics show that Native youth are 2.5 times more likely to experience trauma than non - Native youth and approximately one in every five Indigenous young adults have a substance use disorder in the US. As a result, the suicide rates among indigenous youth is high and will continue increasing if this vulnerable group's voice isn't heard and action taken to ensure that they are more resilient. This side event's goal is to ensure that the Indigenous youth are an active part of the global fight against mental health and wellbeing problems and that their voices are heard by global organizations, local and national governments.

Event details

This event strives at creating a global platform in which the current situation of the indigenous youth is established, challenges identified, and possible solutions recommended to influence policy making, that's inclusive of indigenous group's needs, in governments and international organizations. We are encouraging the indigenous youth, organizations and governments to join and explore solutions during the ECOSOC Youth Forum side event on April 6th, 2021 from 10.00am-11.55am EDT (New York time), 05.00pm-6.55pm EAT.

Speakers

The exciting line-up of speakers and panellists includes Anne Nuorgam, Chair of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Dr. Frank Aminikwam; Xiye Bastida, climate activist, member of the indigenous Mexican Otomi-Toltec nation, and one of the major organizers of Fridays for Future New York City, and a leading voice for indigenous and immigrant visibility; Lehi ThunderVoiceEagle; Archana Soreng; Paloma Costa and; Victor Lopez-Carmen.