

Solidarity 2020 and Beyond
International Activists Convening of Global Grassroots Activists Network
15-19 March 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal

**“Kathmandu 2023 Declaration on People’s Resistance, Grassroots Activism,
and Global Movements”**

How do we learn from each other and mobilize in joint struggles more effectively amidst escalating repression, climate catastrophe, systematic exploitation, and new challenges after the COVID pandemic? This is the question addressed by 80+ grassroots activists and community leaders from every region of the world (44 countries) who gathered in Kathmandu, Nepal on 15-19 March 2023 under the umbrella of Solidarity 2020 and Beyond. This Declaration summarizes our core values and what we committed to advance in our communities and globally.

We, grassroots activists and leaders of movements from across the globe, reaffirm our solidarity and our responsibility to future generations to sustain worldwide grassroots movements for freedom, dignity, peace, equity and justice. Working as individuals, organizations, and movements, we hold our governments and power holders accountable to the people. We believe all humans have a responsibility to act to defend their rights and protect our planet. From the Himalayas to the Dead Sea, from the Sahara Desert to the great rivers and oceans, our planet is ailing. We live in what may be the most fragile and critical time of world history. Our movements enable us to make a difference and together we can do much more to build a sustainable planet for people and nature.

1. We acknowledge that indigenous people are guardians of the world’s ecosystems and believe that they should be protected, supported, and given the breathing space necessary to lead us into our intertwined future.
2. We acknowledge the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and other conventions in humanitarian and human rights law making up the body of international law. However, we also acknowledge that these laws are violated or only partially implemented by many governments, including those that signed them.
3. Gathered here in Kathmandu, we express our concerns for, and solidarity with, the people of Nepal and grassroots movements around the country. We call for the unacceptably lengthy transitional justice process, currently controlled by political elites and external actors, to be resolved with victim-centered solutions, prioritizing their needs and demands and strengthening human rights, rule of law, reconciliation, and non-recurrence. We stand in solidarity with ongoing women’s rights, indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ rights movements.
4. We stand against the myriad of systems and “isms” that are being used to oppress people and mother earth in various parts of the world, including neoliberalism/extreme capitalism, imperialism, colonialism, fascism, autocratic communism, and consumerist development paradigms that are sources of corruption, kleptocracy, land grabs, environmental catastrophes, and violent conflicts. We will act to promote governance and economic systems that put the interests of people and nature ahead of corporate and elite interests.
5. We are committed to protect each other. Human Rights Defenders, including grassroots nonviolent activists around the world, are under pressure and we must support these selfless people who act for their communities, countries and the world. We call for added resources and additional protection mechanisms to allow their work to continue.
6. We live in a time of rampant militarism with huge amounts of money and resources wasted on weapons and arms (both nuclear and traditional) that cause more violence, death,

suffering, and diversion of resources away from human needs. We support ongoing efforts to address this major issue. We will work for an end to all wars including the war in Ukraine based on territorial integrity and respect of human rights of all people and the extreme violence in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Syria.

7. We affirm our commitment to protecting the rights of children from child labour, conscription as child soldiers, trafficking, and abuse. We reiterate the need to ensure their rights to education, good health, and security.
8. We call on the media to support civil liberties, human rights, and transparency. We encourage the media to report from the peoples' perspective as we also commit to sharing information, evidence, and documentation with them to continuously inform the public about what is happening around the globe on these issues, utilizing all available tools including fundraising and digital media to effect change in our societies.
9. Patriarchal norms are suppressing the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ lives the world over, while also distancing men from their fullest humanity. This causes rampant gender based violence, systematic oppression of queer people, exploitation of children, lack of resources and education for girls, and obstruction to health care and education. We strongly support efforts to ensure equal rights, equal access and freedom from violence for all.
10. We strongly stand for freedom from discrimination of all kinds, including racial justice and equality, which is enshrined in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a principle of both the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and addressed directly in the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
11. Ongoing occupations and settler colonial activities across the world are unjust and against international law. The occupation and colonization of all peoples and lands must end now, including in Palestine, Western Sahara, West Papua, Kashmir, and Tibet.
12. Authoritarian regimes that don't follow the will of the people should come to an end.

We pledge to use the strength of people power and nonviolent resistance to accomplish these objectives and ensure peace with justice, equity, rights, and dignity for all. We are proactively seeking worldwide alliances and cooperation and ask all people to join us to build and strengthen this grassroots network. We call for an immediate end to violations of people's rights and all forms of oppression around the world. We call for respect for the planet and a shift from violence and "power over" to nonviolent action and "power with." This can catalyze transformative change worldwide.