

**Violence on the Land,
Violence on our Bodies:
Building an Indigenous Response
to Environmental Violence**
Launch and Week of Action

June 6 -10, 2016
www.landbodydefense.org

#LandBodyDefense



Join Us and Take Action

The impacts of environmental violence are deeply personal and felt most acutely by Indigenous communities — as witnessed through the stories shared in the *Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies* report. At the same time, **these devastating conditions arise from a broken system that will require all of us to mend.**

With this in mind, **we invite you, your friends, your family, your networks and community to stand in solidarity with frontline Indigenous land and body defenders** as we release this report and community toolkit by taking action to end environmental violence.

Week of Action Details

What: A week of action using the hashtag #LandBodyDefense to spread knowledge through our community networks about environmental violence against Indigenous women and youth and to direct people toward the community-generated solutions in the [Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence](#) report and toolkit.

Why: Fracking, mining, pipelines, and other extractive industries not only cause severe environmental damage, but they have significant impacts on people's health, safety and human rights. There is nowhere this is more apparent than on Indigenous lands — where industries including chemical manufacturing and waste dumping have also set up shop. Many communities have seen an introduction of large encampments of workers (called “man camps”) who are brought in to work for the gas and oil industry. The combination of industry presence and a disregard for Indigenous peoples rights, safety and health has led to a growing wave of **sexual and domestic violence, drugs and alcohol, murders and disappearances, reproductive illnesses and toxic exposure, threats to culture and Indigenous lifeways, crime, and other social stressors.**

Indigenous leaders call these impacts **“environmental violence.”**

In general, this onslaught of dirty development wreaks havoc on communities — tearing apart social fabric, assaulting people's bodies, and injuring the land. Their experiences and testimonials tell a story we all need to know, so that the violence can stop and communities can begin to heal.

When: The week of **June 6-10th**. Choose one day to take action, choose a few, or take a different action every day that week!

Who: All of us. In order to create a groundswell of support for industry-impacted communities, and to ensure these messages are heard by both government and industry, **we need everyone.** We all have a connection to the land, and everything connected to the land is connected to our bodies. We are what we eat. We are the air we breathe. What we do to the lands, we ultimately do to our bodies. In many parts of the world, irresponsible industrial activity threatens not only the earth, but all of our health, safety and freedom.

How to Participate:

1. [RSVP](#) to let us know you're in.
2. **Check out the Suggested Actions below**, which are easy online ways to take action, including sample posts and more.
3. **Take any (or all) of the Suggested Actions and share with the hashtag #landbodydefense.** We've made it easy for you—some take no more than a few minutes. (For example, you can take a photo of your hand touching the earth and share it on social media with hashtag #landbodydefense and link to landbodydefense.org.) Demand an end to environmental violence.

4. **Encourage others to do the same.** Email or tag others you know will want to know about this. Tag your local policymakers if possible. Spread the action!

Suggested Actions:

- **Hand to the Land:** Take a photo of yourself with your hand directly on the land (sample photo below). Share your photo on social media with a personal statement on the connection between our lands and bodies, or with the sample language below. Tag #LandBodyDefense and link to landbodydefense.org.
- **Violence on our Lands, Violence on our Bodies:** At the end of this kit you'll find Land/Body chestplate stencils. Print out the stencil that speaks most to you on regular 8.5"x11" paper (*note: there are different versions depicting several industries like fracking, mining, pipelines, logging, and more). Take a photo of yourself holding the stencil up to your chest (sample photo below). Share your photo on social media with a personal statement on the connection between our lands and bodies, or with the sample language below. Tag #LandBodyDefense and link to landbodydefense.org.
- **Make a Local Connection:** Is your neighborhood, community or region impacted by the presence of industries like fracking, mining, gas/oil, etc.? How has that impacted your body, health and/or safety (asthma, cancers or other illnesses, increased inequity, crime or poverty, reproductive health issues, community violence, etc.)? Take a photo of the industry. Name the impact. Share. Get the word out and demand an end to environmental violence. Tag #LandBodyDefense and link to landbodydefense.org.

EXAMPLE: "I live in Richmond, CA, the home of Chevron refinery. From headaches, respiratory illnesses, skin irritation, to systemic poverty and environmental racism, we are all impacted here. Stop the violence. Heal our land, bodies and communities. #LandBodyDefense landbodydefense.org"

Other actions: We encourage you to express the connection between land and body in the way that resonates most deeply with you. That may include actions that are not listed above, such as: hosting a gathering to create art depicting this connection, writing poetry or a song, using the tools in the [Community Toolkit](#) to host a teach-in or discussion circle, or writing letters to your representatives.

Share your action from June 6-10th and be a part of the Week of Action by tagging #LandBodyDefense.

We will also be showcasing all the #LandBodyDefense actions on the website at landbodydefense.org

Sample Photos:



Example: Hand to the Land photo



Example: Chestplate stencil photo

Sample Social Media Posts:

Facebook:

- “When extractive industry threatens the land, it also threatens our bodies. From cancers to reproductive health issues to increased crime and violence, it’s all connected. I’m standing with Indigenous land/body defenders for a Week of Action to demand an end to #Environmental Violence. Join us!
#LandBodyDefense”
LINK: <http://landbodydefense.org/>
IMAGE: Be sure to include a photo of your own action
- “This week, please join Indigenous land/body defenders and their allies for a Week of Action to demand an end to the systemic violence people face because of extractive industry. Take a picture of yourself with your hand to the land, and post it with the hashtag #LandBodyDefense”
LINK: <http://landbodydefense.org/>
IMAGE: Be sure to include a photo of your own action
- “It’s time to end #EnvironmentalViolence. Extractive industries like fracking and mining cause violence to our lands and our bodies. I’m joining Indigenous land and body defenders this week to demand action and share a timely report. Join us by posting a pic of your hand on the land with hashtag #LandBodyDefense. Learn more at <http://landbodydefense.org/>”
LINK: <http://landbodydefense.org/>
IMAGE: Be sure to include a photo of your own action

Twitter:

- Env violence from industry destroys the land and harms our communities. Help us get the word out! #LandBodyDefense <http://bit.ly/1WPQ9vw>
- This week, help us spread the word abt env violence. Post a pic of your hand to the land w/ hashtag #LandBodyDefense <http://bit.ly/1WPQ9vw>
- Violence on the land is violence on our bodies. Stop environmental violence. Support communities. #LandBodyDefense <http://bit.ly/1WPQ9vw>
- Put your hand to the land this week to support Indigenous communities impacted by industry. #LandBodyDefense <http://bit.ly/1WPQ9vw>
- It's time to end industry violence on our lands and bodies. Join us + spread the word this week! #LandBodyDefense <http://bit.ly/1WPQ9vw>

Background

For Indigenous communities in North America, the links between land and body are profound and yet often overlooked. Extractive industries drill, mine, and frack on lands on or near resource-rich Indigenous territories, and have done so for decades. Although the economic gains benefit transnational corporations and the economies of the U.S. and Canada, **they come at a frightening cost to Indigenous communities — particularly women and young people.**

We know that extreme energy extraction causes irreversible damage to the environment, but what is less visible is that every day, people are also experiencing unspeakable human rights abuses as a result.

A Community Report and Toolkit

[*Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence*](#) is a **community-based report and toolkit** that highlights the experiences and resistance efforts of Indigenous women and young people. These community members are speaking out to **expose and curtail the devastating impacts of extractive industries on their communities and lands.** For example:

- **Crime increased roughly 18% between the start of the oil boom in the Bakken region of North Dakota in 2008 and 2013.** An analysis of crime in 2012 pointed to Western North Dakota, where employment in the oil fields attracts thousands of people into the state, as a source of much of the increase
- **In the U.S., Native American women experience sexual violence at a rate that is 2.5 times that of any other women; 86% of the time, their assailants are non-native.** North Dakota--once one of the safest states in the country — now has the eighth highest incidence of rape in the country.

- **In 2009, Alberta, home to the Tar Sands gigaproject—the largest industrial project in history—had Canada's highest rate of domestic violence.** In 2010, Fort McMurray's single women's shelter became so overcrowded that the executive director held a three-week hunger strike to draw attention to its desperate need for greater support.

This dangerous intersection of extractive industry, the violence that accompanies it, and a population of women and young people who are already targets of systemic and generational trauma, sets the stage for increased violence on the land leading to increased violence on Indigenous people.

Shedding Light on Environmental Violence

Our Team (organizations [WEA](#) and [Native Youth Sexual Health Network](#)) traveled to some of the most heavily impacted Indigenous territories in the U.S. and Canada to listen to frontline communities. **From the American Southwest to Canada's tar sands region of Alberta, our team walked with Navajo youth across their sacred lands in New Mexico, witness women leaders testifying at the United Nations in defense of their land, their people, and future generations, and spoke with women and young people in their homes and communities.**

Our goal was to:

1. Detail — through community interviews and research — the environmental violence suffered by community members
2. Recognize and share the knowledge and actions of Indigenous leaders already engaged in this work, whose efforts have laid the foundation for this and all future work around environmental violence
3. Create a toolkit to offer support for Indigenous communities to develop and strengthen culturally-rooted, nation-specific responses to the traumas their communities face as a result of industry presence on their lands

We are honored by the time, effort and trust of those who offered their voices, experiences, and knowledge to ensure that this work reflects the reality of what is happening on the ground.

Help us spread the word! #landbodydefense. Thank you!

**Scroll Down for
Sample Artwork to Use**

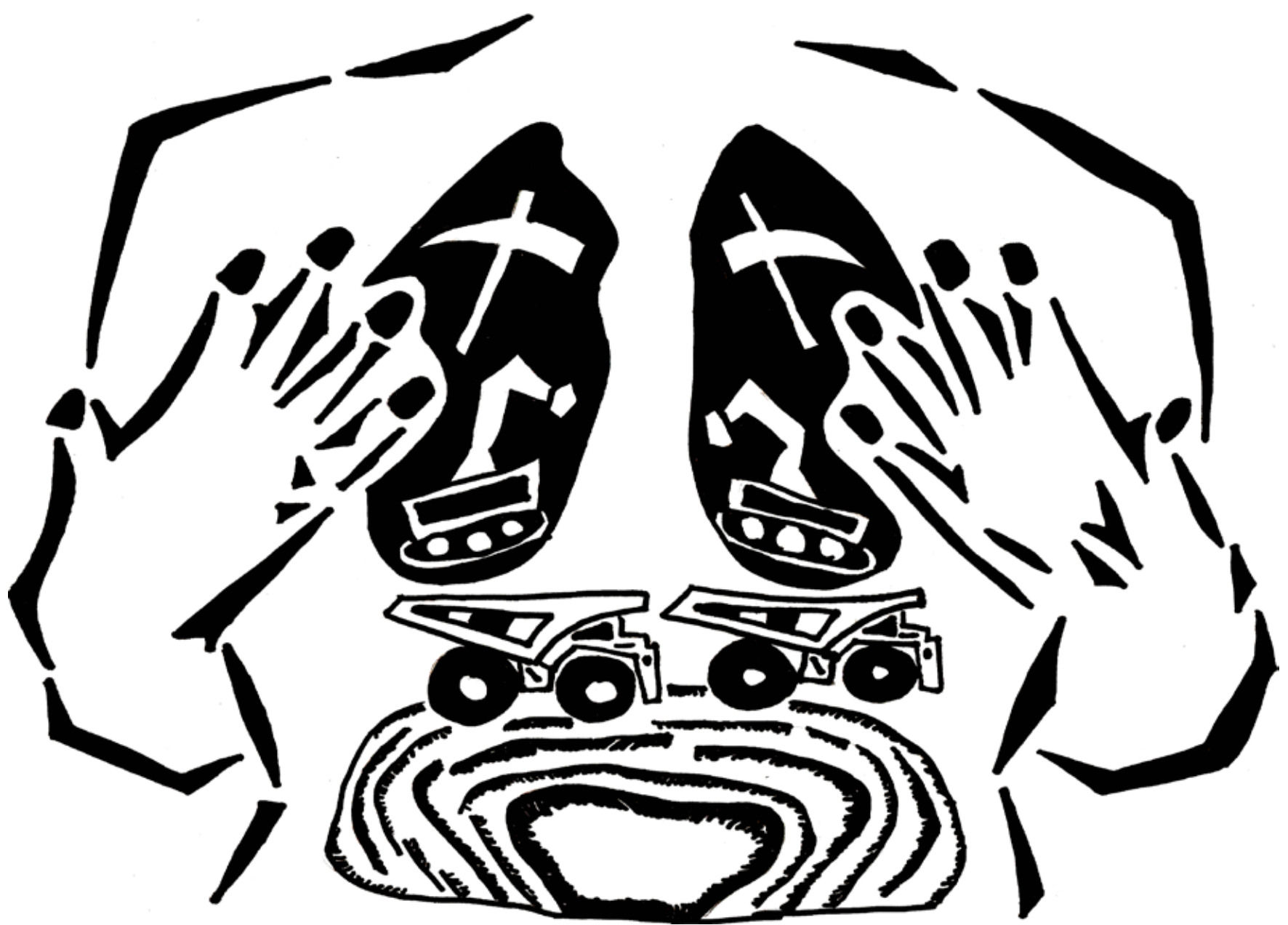




**Violence From Fracking
Is Violence On Our Bodies**
#EnvironmentalViolence



**Violence From Pipelines
Is Violence On Our Bodies**
#EnvironmentalViolence



**Violence From Mining
Is Violence On Our Bodies**
#EnvironmentalViolence



**Violence From Nuclear Power
Is Violence On Our Bodies**
#EnvironmentalViolence



**Violence From Hydro Dams
Is Violence On Our Bodies**
#EnvironmentalViolence



**Violence From Logging
Is Violence On Our Bodies**
#EnvironmentalViolence