



## LANGUAGES, CULTURES, EDUCATION AND WOMEN

We, the mountain people of the world, propose that all National States across the continents should recognize the mother tongue of the autochthonous people that live within their territory for hundreds of years, and stop persecuting them.

Language is the principal tool through which people understand the world. That is, each language has a specific way of framing the reality. These different frames allow people not only to comprehend their surroundings but also provide the diversity of knowledge that exist across the world. It is this diverse understanding of the world that provides the source for building different epistemological approach to understand each other. Lastly, language is culture!

Culture exists also through the artifacts that are being commoditized, and is part of social practices. It is embedded in the daily life of people. Thus, it is important to highlight not only the symbolic things but also to respect indigenous people's practices that re-create and reproduce culture.

Women have the right to participate and be heard, and their voices must be counted in political decisions too. We must strive to appreciate the economic, political, social and cultural force that women have.

Education for children in the villages is usually taken for granted. Children must be taught in their first language and at the same time learn the national language with an appropriate methodological approach.

We should work toward encouraging the use of language inside the homes and in the public sphere to reduce the stigmatization of indigenous languages. Further the state should be responsible for providing trained teachers, well aware of cultural traditions, thus prepared to teach children in more open curriculum.

In order to improve the participation of women, education should benefit all children, particularly girls. Further, at least during the first years, indigenous children have to be taught by indigenous teachers who can stay in the village all the year round.

We condemn child labor of any forms.

WMPA, General Assembly  
Oloron-Sainte-Marie, 1st Octobre 2010.