



MADRE

Fall 2018

www.madre.org



Meet the Next
Generation of
Women Leaders

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

What makes a movement? Often, when we think of a social change movement, we think about the parts that are most visible, like mass street protests or sit-ins. As important as those are, it takes much more to build a movement, the kind that can change women's lives and communities for good. It takes each of us, playing our part, bit by bit, over years and even generations.

Your role in this is so crucial. When you support MADRE, you help strengthen our global movements for rights and justice by standing with grassroots women leaders. Your donations help women worldwide meet urgent needs and save lives, through bringing shelters, medical care, food aid and more to communities in crisis. That's vital, and it's always been an indispensable part of our work.

What has further set MADRE apart for the last 35 years — and what will continue to set us apart — is our core commitment to sustaining the leadership of women at the margins.

These are next-generation leaders — from girls stepping up for the first time to women kicking down the doorways to enter spaces of power that had been closed off to them. And when they mobilize, with your support, to provide urgent care in their communities and to demand action from policymakers, they bring us all closer to the world we want to live in.

Since we started, MADRE has always prioritized partnering with Indigenous women. Their leadership is rooted in a vision of collective justice and sustainability that we all need. In this newsletter, you'll meet Maria, Aminatu, Naidira and Alice, Indigenous women activists linking generations and leading the way in their communities.



© TERRY ALLEN

I hope that these stories will inspire you and help keep you firm in the conviction that a just world is possible.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Terry Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

No Borders on Gender Justice:

On the Ground with Indigenous Activists in Arizona



This spring, we traveled to Arizona with a delegation of six of MADRE's Indigenous partners to expose and confront rights violations at the US-Mexico border. These women — from places like Kenya, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Nepal — were thousands of miles from home, but powerful connections emerged.

They strategized about the role Indigenous Peoples, whose lands

are often bisected by imposed national borders, play in providing care and solidarity to immigrants crossing the border who face human rights violations, including the separation of families. They called for solutions to the dangers that force people to migrate cross borders like droughts and failed harvests caused by climate change.

The delegation culminated with an exchange of stories and lessons from the women's hardships and triumphs, as they laid the foundation for future collaboration together.



Visit our website to watch a short film from our delegation!
www.madre.org/noborders-arizona

Your gift to MADRE unleashes a powerful force for good.

Your gift sustains the work of grassroots women, our on-the-ground partners, and fuels worldwide programs that meet urgent needs and creates lasting change.

Visit www.madre.org/give2018 to make your gift today!

Other Ways to Give!

- **BECOME A MADRE LIFELINE!** Make a monthly gift, and let women in embattled communities know that they can count on you as they work to build a future for themselves and their families.
- **MAKE A PLANNED GIFT:** Continue to play a vital role in the MADRE programs that matter to you most, and leave a legacy that will ensure bright futures for women and girls.
- **DONATE STOCK:** Current tax laws favor people who contribute appreciated stock. Your generous stock donation will support MADRE's programs and provide you with an opportunity for tax savings. So, donate stock today — and help support women's human rights worldwide.
- **DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)** is a charitable giving program that allows you to reap maximum tax benefits while supporting your favorite causes. Your DAF allows you to distribute money, which grows tax-free, to MADRE over time.

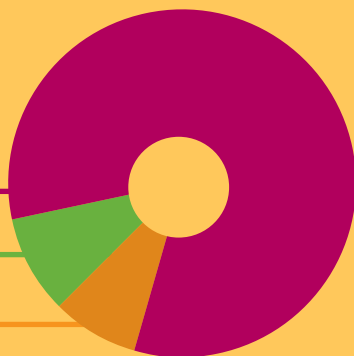
Visit www.madre.org/ways-give to learn more!

MADRE EXPENSES

Program Services **83%**

Fundraising **9%**

Administrative & General **8%**



Next-Generation Indigenous Leaders



MARIA

Maria is a 15-year-old Ixil youth activist. Her mother, Catarina, is a survivor of war and domestic violence and has been an active Ixil leader with MUIXIL — our local partner in Guatemala.

MUIXIL is a group of Ixil women who survived their country's genocide and who seek to answer the question: *what does it mean to pass down resilience instead of trauma to our children?* They're answering that question through workshops where their children learn about Indigenous traditions, stories and healing practices. In this way, women share their culture with their daughters, allowing each girl to say: *I know who I am and where I come from.*

Maria attends these workshops with her mom and learns from the brave women leaders who have come before her. What's more, she is gaining valuable community organizing skills and preparing to step up as the next generation of leadership in her rural community!

Aminatu, a young Mbororo woman from Cameroon, is already emerging as a leader in international policy spaces.

In her community, she told us, "power, decision making and politics belong to men." Young women are underrepresented in the local community council. With MADRE and the help of her mentor Lucy, our partner at the Indigenous Information Network in Kenya, Aminatu has learned how to navigate the male-dominated village council and organize with other young people from around the world, including at the United Nations. There, she advocates for greater investment in education and in the leadership of more young women like her.



AMINATU

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"Young women want to be agents of change! The vision of transformation for young women is to be taking leadership roles and defining policies."

-AMINATU



NAIDIRA

Naidira is an activist with Wangki Tangni, an Indigenous women's organization and MADRE's partner in Nicaragua. The women of Wangki Tangni mobilize to change discriminatory attitudes towards women. They do this by creating spaces for women's voices to be heard and amplified, like their annual community forum that gathers hundreds of women, and their women's rights radio station, the first to be launched in the region!

Naidira has been guided by Rose, her long-time mentor, who recently made history by becoming the first Indigenous woman mayor of their hometown of Waspam. And now, with Rose's encouragement, Naidira serves as a *promotora*, a community organizer and women's rights defender.

Alice is a Rendille woman from Kenya. When the drought in her community devastated harvests, Alice took action. With the help of MADRE and our local partners at the Indigenous Information

Network, she set up a greenhouse to grow food and installed systems to collect what little rainwater fell to irrigate their crops. Now, Alice can provide food for her daughters and send them to school using the money she earns from selling her extra vegetables.

Recently, Alice was elected to serve as a chairperson and community representative for a local governing body called the Constituency Development Fund! She now has an official and active role in deciding how community budgets are spent.



ALICE

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"I know how to speak up without being afraid. And this is what I try to bring to the women in the communities. I'm going to keep overcoming things to be better at this work, to be a better organizer."

-NAIDIRA

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