

#22to22
#OurWaterOurBodies #OurLandOurBodies

STATEMENT

Recognition of water and land as essential to life, health, and dignity reaches back to the dawn of humanity. The United Nations (UN) recognizes how important water and sanitation and land are to human wellbeing. In 2010 the UN General Assembly explicitly recognized water and sanitation as human rights, [stating that](#) they are “*central to living a life in dignity and upholding human rights.*” And while land is not explicitly recognized as such, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [has acknowledged](#) that land ownership is a “*cross-cutting issue that impacts directly on the enjoyment of a number of human rights.*”

However, far too many people — billions, in fact — are denied access to these essential rights.

Despite water’s status as a human right, and land ownership being increasingly recognized as crucial to enjoyment of full rights, they are still treated as lucrative commodities by transnational corporations with the collusion of governments. The results of this appropriation of resources invariably include:

- Removal of indigenous populations from their territories to make room for infrastructure and extraction projects.
- Barring communities from accessing their own local resources.
- Contamination of local resources and breaking down of ecosystems, eventually rendering them unusable.
- Global climate change acceleration, which disproportionately affects those who contribute to it the least.
- The consequences of ecological destruction falling disproportionately upon women.
- Violent repression and assassinations through the use of military, police, and mercenaries — including the presence of foreign military or other armed forces when deemed necessary.

All of this is in direct contrast to what corporate advertising would have us believe.

From World Water Day to Earth Day (March 22nd to April 22nd), Women’s March Global will highlight stories of water rights and earth/land rights on our Medium channel and social media accounts. Our goal is to raise awareness of the day-to-day struggles caused by corporate water and land theft and celebrate those who have fought so that all people may enjoy the right to sovereignty over their own water and land.

Our water, our lands, our bodies — these are our rights.