

40 Years of Solidarity!



2021 is NISGUA's 40th anniversary! In honor of the Guatemalan people's ongoing struggle, we invite you to walk with us through four decades of solidarity.

1980: Founding Convention

After a founding conference in 1980, existing organized communities formed the NISGUA national network to increase their political leverage and focus their advocacy potential through joint campaigns.

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA

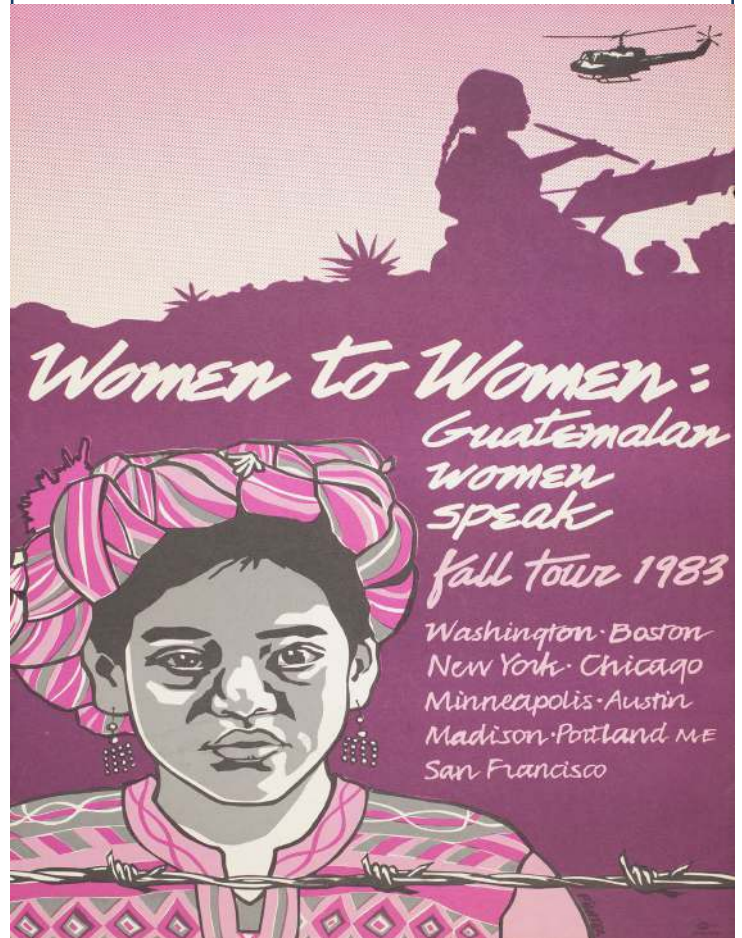
en la lucha de los pueblos centroamericanos está en juego el futuro de América Latina

WASHINGTON D.C.
AUG. 2-3
1980



Poster courtesy of Lincoln Cushing / Docs Populi & Todd Kolze / Guatemala News and Information Bureau (GNIB)

1982: Women to Women Tour



Poster from the Women-to-Women Tour.
Credit: Lincoln Cushing / Docs Populi & Todd Kolze / GNIB

Since the '80s, we have continued to facilitate annual speaking tours in which representatives of our partner organizations visit the U.S. to connect with communities and powerholders about their resistances, challenges, and successes.

1982: Newsletter launched

Over the years, NISGUA and sibling organizations like the Guatemala News & Information Bureau (GNIB) produced various newsletters, including *Guatemala Network News*, *Guatemala!*, and *Report on Guatemala*.

1993: Accompaniment of the CPRs

During the Internal Armed Conflict, thousands of people fled to the mountains to escape genocide. In 1993, the Communities of Population in Resistance (CPRs) organized a historic "walk-in" of 400 people. NISGUA accompanied the walk-in, which the CPRs call their "emergence into the light."

Right: Members of a CPR trek to a makeshift market to exchange goods.

*Credit:
Jonathan Jonás Moller*



1995: Elections observation delegation

Working with GNIB and Global Exchange, NISGUA helped organize a delegation of 40 people from the U.S. to observe the 1995 national election. This was the first election in decades in which a wide spectrum of Guatemalan political sectors participated, including Indigenous and human rights organizations.

Left: Thousands of people gathered in front of the National Palace to commemorate the peace treaty. Credit: Prensa Libre



1996: Peace Accords signing

On December 29, 1996, the "Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace" was signed after 36 years of Internal Armed Conflict. The war started in 1960, six years after the CIA-backed military overthrow of the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz, which ended a ten-year period of democracy (1944–1954).

2001: Accompaniment project launch

NISGUA joined other international organizations to coordinate accompaniment as a tool to dissuade violence against human rights defenders. These days, Sponsoring Communities across the U.S. support our Guatemala Accompaniment Project (GAP) *Internacionalista* volunteer program.

2001: Genocide case opens



The Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) filed charges of genocide and crimes against humanity against former dictators Romeo Lucas García, Efraín Ríos Montt, and their respective military high commands. The AJR and their lawyers at the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) requested formal international accompaniment to act as a dissuasive presence for possible attacks against the survivors during the trials.

Above: A woman looks through a photo exhibit, commemorating exhumations, burials, and the genocide sentence.

2018: Guatemala's highest court orders the Escobal Mine to remain suspended

This historic ruling upheld a lower court's June 2017 order that the then mine owner, Tahoe Resources, halt all construction. It further ordered the mine to remain closed until the Ministry of Energy and Mines conducted a consultation with the Indigenous Xinka people. From the original ruling in 2017 until this announcement from the Constitutional Court in September 2018, thousands of Xinka water protectors maintained multiple around-the-clock encampments to resist the mine and call for its permanent closure.

Right: In 2019, water protectors protest the mine, now owned by Pan American Silver.



2020: GAP Internacionalista launched



We re-launched our Guatemalan Accompaniment Project (GAP) with four main goals:

- expand opportunities for volunteers to organize in their home communities.
- deepen existing partnerships.
- maintain our historic principles of accompaniment.
- generate horizontal exchange between communities in the U.S. and Guatemala that are similarly impacted by systems of violence.

Left: Rubén Herrera, a long-time mentor to NISGUA accompaniers, walks between a line of police and community members protesting the Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs) in 2019. July 22, 2021 marks the one year anniversary of Rubén's passing. We honor his memory every day.

"NISGUA gives us unconditional support for the strengthening of land defense actions. The support of NISGUA contributes to the fulfillment of our activities so that we can respond to the looming threats of extractive companies. Huehuetenango sees the international accompaniment of NISGUA to the ADH as indispensable"

-Departmental Assembly of Peoples of Huehuetenango (ADH)

"I am proud to be a sustaining monthly donor of NISGUA because NISGUA practices principled solidarity while accountable to decades-long relationships with Guatemalan partners. I believe in the organizers and the work of NISGUA, and I want to make sure they are able to continue in that work until it is no longer necessary".

-Clara L., Former Accompanier & Sustaining Donor

2021: The journey continues

Beloved NISGUA community, thank you for walking with us. As we commemorate 40 years of solidarity, we look to the future, and to all the joy and challenges that await. We know that in community, resistance will always be possible.

Take action in solidarity with Indigenous migrants!

Migrants, especially Black and Indigenous peoples, have long been oppressed by an immigration system made to serve white supremacy and capitalism. Help us continue to put pressure on the Biden Administration! Sign the petition:

bit.ly/IndigenousHumanRightsPetition