

# Encuentro Trans-Territorial

## Never Again an Isolated Struggle

*“It was important for us to seek alliances with other national and international organizations. If we want to move forward, we have to unite, especially with the current context in Guatemala. The Encuentro gave us a lot of strength and inspiration, so we hope to continue with these alliances and see the fruit of these meetings.”*

- President of the Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR)



Photo by NISGUA.

NISGUA’s desire to organize an Encuentro Trans-Territorial (Trans-Territorial Gathering) has been germinating for years. The dream was to gather NISGUA’s partners across multiple territories and struggles in one place to exchange knowledge, build intentional alliances, and share strategies of resistance.

In the midst of an intensifying political context, election season, and the immense fatigue of surviving multiple forms of state and capitalist violence, the *Encuentro* was also a sacred space to reconnect with our memories, our genealogies of struggle, and with old and new comrades.



Photo by NISGUA. Collective altar with offerings from participants in the Encuentro.

### At a glance:

**3** days devoted to relationship building & political analysis, strategy & collaboration!

**4** intersecting realities addressed in workshops, presentations, facilitated conversations & artistic activities:

- U.S. imperialism & militarization.
- Defense of territory against extractivism & megaprojects
- Guatemalan state cooptation & corruption.
- Financial crises & economic sustainability of grassroots organizations.

**10** participating NISGUA partners, from Guatemala & the United States, on the front lines of migrant justice, international solidarity, defense of life & territory, justice & accountability!

The *Encuentro* clarified that we are powerful when we are together; we are powerful when we are apart but organized in a network; and we are powerful because all of us, in our respective places and ways, fight for life and dignity.

# Lessons from the Encuentro

*“The Encuentro Trans-Territorial was a meaningful space to share the struggles of various organizations that collectively seek the good of the territories, the environment and Indigenous peoples. I personally believe that the knowledge sharing and networking that took place at this Encuentro were valuable and essential tools to address the environmental, cultural, social and political challenges facing Guatemala and other regions.” - Glenda, Anpük Communications Youth Collective*

People have always organized to defend life, but sometimes we are so geographically distant that we don't know each other. The *Encuentro* affirmed the urgency of strengthening exchanges to build solidarity between peoples living in the Global North and Global South. Additional learnings from the *Encuentro* offer guidance for all of our organizing, wherever we are, in the years and decades to come.

- Indigenous peoples are the vanguard of 21st century struggles to save the Earth & humanity; their autonomy and leadership must be honored and followed.
- An organized Guatemalan diaspora, & solidarity between them and people still in Guatemala, is crucial to building a better Guatemalan future.
- Elders & youth should be at the center of shaping the visions & strategies of our organizing.
- Internationalism must be a guiding principle of struggle because all oppression and liberation is interconnected.
- Grassroots organizations are facing a financial crisis and increased financial solidarity is urgent for the movement!



Photo by NISGUA. Collective Art - "What World's Do We Dream & Imagine?"

*“Real power is not in governments, it's in the people! Yes, governments have all that power, but we have our ways. If we don't defend us all, they will exterminate everything. That's why we must keep organizing! According to the will of Indigenous peoples, everything is possible!” - Encuentro Participant, Elder, Maya Mam, Water Protector*

## NISGUA 2024 Calendar: Interwoven Wisdom



Our 2024 calendar uplifts diverse and interconnected ways of knowing and kinds of knowledge. We celebrate the wisdom of weaving and learning, offering and feasting, creating and dancing, mobilizing and proclaiming, providing and organizing, protecting and honoring.

**Pre-order yours today!**

Photo by Jonás Moller. Meeting in a newly formed community of the Communities of Population in Resistance of the Ixcán.