

HER STORY 4....!!

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), through 'HerStory Series' has been rejoicing the successes and disseminating the aspirations of Indigenous Women change makers across the Asia. In 2019, AIPP plans to mark and celebrate International Women's Day '8 March'. The theme for International Women's Day this year is '[Better the balance. Better the World \(#BalanceforBetter\)](#)'. AIPP will maintain its legacy and contribute '#BalanceforBetter' through documenting and disseminating changes, struggles and achievements of Indigenous Women change maker. Hence, AIPP plans to publish 'HerStory 4'; the fourth in a series of book-length collections of personal essays and stories from Indigenous Women or Indigenous Women group change makers across Asia.

In the past, [HerStory of Empowerment Leadership and Justice \(2013\)](#), [Rewriting HerStory: A Collection of Essays by Indigenous Women \(2014\)](#) and [HerStory3: Championing Community Land Rights and Indigenous Women's Leadership in Asia \(2016\)](#) have proven to be effective ways of ensuring the stories, struggles and triumphs of Indigenous Women in the region are heard. All the collections were widely distributed amongst CSO's and donors, and were even picked up by some academic institutions to contribute to university curriculums. Therefore, 'HerStory 4' will be the opportunity to inform the public of the realities of Indigenous Women's struggles and achievements, as told by Indigenous Women themselves. This year, AIPP has planned to mark International Women's Day through launching 'HerStory 4' with the theme of '[Role of Indigenous Women in Balance for Better](#)'. Through documenting, compiling and publishing these stories, we hope to;

- Raise awareness on the issues of Indigenous Women in Asia
- Create a tool that can be used for advocacy at all levels
- Increase recognition of the rights of indigenous women, both within their communities and outside
- Promote the solidarity of all Indigenous Women
- Empower Indigenous Women to share their stories

For *HerStory 4*, we are requesting join our hand in sourcing and documenting stories of Indigenous Women across the region. This year our theme is on the cross-section between

1. [Indigenous Women's Economic Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Traditional Knowledge](#). Experienced **economic empowerment** and can describe the positive and negative aspects of this empowerment process, including any backlash she may have received; Have used their **traditional skills** and **knowledge** in an innovative way to generate income and sustain livelihood for the household and the community, whilst still preserving the culture, land and natural resources around

- them; **Indigenous women entrepreneurs** who have overcome extreme hardships by empowering themselves economically or engaging in local market-based activities.
2. **Role of Indigenous Women in advancing Indigenous Language**: UN has declared 2019 as International Year of **Indigenous Languages**. Hence, any stories related to Indigenous languages will be highly considered. Indigenous women's (or group or network or association) struggle or success work on **Indigenous Languages** in any form (formal or informal education, transfer to younger generations, recognition in policies, breaking the language barrier etc)
 3. **Role and contribution of Indigenous Women Human Right Defenders** to protect, promote and advance Indigenous people rights and identity; right to land, territories and resources
 4. Experiences, stories of success and struggles **of Indigenous Women** in combating, adapting and mitigating the impact of **Climate Change**
 5. **Indigenous Women's leadership in** promoting gender equality, reducing gender based violation and discrimination in customary and traditional practices, fighting against human trafficking, improving participation in social and political institution

We would like to hear the stories of indigenous Women or Indigenous Women Group or associations.

Please submit your stories (annex 1: Story template for story) latest by **28 February 2019**. For any queries and support, please contact sushila@aippnet.org.

Annex 1: Story Template

- Stories should be a minimum of 3-4 pages (1500-2000 words).
- Stories can be about an individual, group or community.
- Stories are to be submitted in English.
- Please, submit at least **two photographs** to support the story. Ideally, one of these would be a **portrait of the woman's face**.
- Are there any **newspaper clippings, poems, songs, paintings** etc. that can be used to alongside your story? Please send them too.
- Please submit the story by **31st January 2019**

If you cannot meet this deadline or having problem with English write up but would still like to participate, please contact Sushila@aippnet.org or Chanda@aippnet.org to discuss alternative options.

<p>Elements of the story</p>	<p>Has your story covered following aspect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background of the Indigenous Women and theme that your story is about - Key role of the Indigenous Women in the theme your story covering - Factor that motivated her to work or act upon the theme - Opportunities and challenges she faced - Results of her/their actions - Lesson learn
<p>Story:</p>	<p>If you are having trouble, you can start by answering some of the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the experience that you wish to highlight? 2. What was the situation like before the indigenous woman/ community/ association became empowered? 3. What aspects of knowledge and capacity were used in this process?

	<p>4. How has the situation changed since this process of empowerment?</p> <p>5. What is the message that should be passed on to indigenous women in similar situations?</p> <p>These are just guiding questions to get you started; there is no need to answer any or all of them. AIPP is here to help you in documenting these stories, so if there is something you wish to share but don't know how, please get in touch.</p>
Written by:	You may wish to remain anonymous. Please indicate here if you don't want your name recorded.
Narrated by:	(if applicable)
Organization:	(if applicable)
Date/Year:	
Consent:	Please indicate here if you have already received consent of the Indigenous Women/ community to publish her/ their story
Native/ local language:	We require the stories to be in English language, but we would also encourage you to submit a copy in your native language and/or the language it was written in. This can be scanned or typed if practical.