



## Press Conference Speakers -

# Stories and Solutions From Grassroots, Frontline, and Indigenous Women in the Lead up to the 'Women's Assembly for Climate Justice'

*Presented by the Women's Earth & Climate Action Network (WE CAN) International*

*September 6th, 2018 - Live Online via Zoom or Facebook Livestream*



**Kandi White - Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lead Organizer on the Extreme Energy & Just Transition Campaign with the Indigenous Environmental Network**

Kandi White (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara – North Dakota) has emerged as a leading voice in the fight to bring visibility to the impacts that climate change and environmental injustice are having on Indigenous communities across North America.

Upon completion of her Master's Degree in Environmental Management, Kandi began her work with the Indigenous Environmental Network as the Tribal Campus Climate Challenge Coordinator, engaging with more than 30 tribal colleges to instate community based environmental programs, discuss issues of socio-ecologic injustice, and connect indigenous youth with green jobs. She is currently the Indigenous Environmental Network's (IEN) Lead Organizer on the Extreme Energy & Just Transition Campaign, focusing at present on creating awareness about the environmentally & socially devastating effects of hydraulic fracturing on tribal lands and working towards a Just Transition away from the fossil fuel industry. Her local work is complemented by international advocacy work, including participation in several United Nation Forums and a testimony before the U.S. Congress on the climate issue and its links to issues of health, identity, and well being on tribal lands.



**Eriel Deranger - Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Indigenous Climate Action, Canada**

Eriel Deranger is a founding member of Indigenous Climate Action (ICA), and spent two years in the role of interim director before becoming Executive Director of Indigenous Climate Action. A member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First

Nation(ACFN), Deranger has a far reaching reputation for challenging fossil fuel development and championing the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Deranger has over a decade of experience working with environmental organizations as well as front-line Indigenous knowledge holders, water protectors and land defenders across Turtle Island. More recently, Deranger worked for her Nation as the strategic Communications and Climate Change Coordinator. She is an active member of the UN Indigenous Peoples Caucus and sought after globally as an opinion leader on climate change and Indigenous rights.



**Jacqueline Patterson - Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Environmental and Climate Justice Program**

Jacqueline Patterson is the Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007 Patterson has also served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women’s rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women’s Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women’s rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV&AIDS. Previously, she served as Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health providing management and technical assistance to medical facilities and programs in 23 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Patterson served as the Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies. Patterson holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the International Committee of the US Social Forum, the Steering Committee for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, Advisory Board for Center for Earth Ethics as well as on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, Center for Story Based Strategy and the US Climate Action Network.



**Thilmeeza Hussain - Former Deputy Ambassador to the UN from the Maldives; WECAN Advisory Council Member; Founder of Voice of Women, Maldives**

Thilmeeza Hussain is a lecturer of sustainability and global warming and an environmentalist. She is the founder of Voice of Women (VoW – [www.voiceofwomen.org](http://www.voiceofwomen.org)) Maldives, she sits on the advisory board of Women’s Earth Climate Action Network and is also a member of Climate Wise Women, global platforms promoting women’s leadership on climate change. Thilmeeza was serving as the Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) of the Republic of the Maldives to United Nations from 2009 until 2012 when the first democratically elected government was toppled. During her term at the UN, she had the sustainable development portfolio and led the Maldives on environmental and climate

change issues. She was amongst the voice of a new generation of women in the developing world who see climate change as the fundamental challenge for their future as well as a key platform for leadership. During the time she was also accredited as the non-residential Deputy Ambassador to the United States and Canada. Before serving as the DPR, she served as the Minister of State for Home Affairs – North Province and was among the team of young, enthusiastic members of the first democratically elected government in the country. She worked extensively with the decentralization process and was also in charge of the establishment of North Province Office. When Thilmeeza resigned following the coup d'état that overthrew the government she was seven months pregnant, today she is a proud mother of a five-year-old boy. She continues to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee for the Maldivian Democratic Party; a party committed to restoring democracy in the Maldives. She is also an Aspen New Voices Fellow for 2018.



**Antonia Juhasz - Energy author, investigative journalist and analyst, specializing in oil**

Antonia Juhasz is a leading energy analyst, author, and investigative journalist specializing in oil. Her investigations have taken her a mile below the ocean surface in the Gulf of Mexico to the rainforests of the Ecuadoran Amazon, from the deserts of Afghanistan to the fracking fields of North Dakota, from the Alaskan Arctic to the oiled beaches of Santa

Barbara, and many more places in between. Antonia reported from Standing Rock on the Dakota Access Pipeline for Pacific Standard Magazine and Grist. She completed a series of six articles for Newsweek on the UN Paris climate talks, reporting from Alaska, North Dakota and Paris. She holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University and a Bachelors Degree in Public Policy from Brown University. She is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists and Investigative Reporters and Editors. Antonia founded and runs the (Un)Covering Oil Investigative Reporting Program, a project of the Society of Environmental Journalists - and is a Yale University Poynter Fellow in Journalism.



**Bridget Burns - Co-Director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)**

A feminist, climate activist & Co-Director of WEDO, where she has worked since 2010, Bridget specializes in policy advocacy, research and movement building at the intersection of gender equality, women's rights and climate justice. For several years, she has been particularly focused on integrating gender equality into the decisions and outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, Bridget serves as the co-Focal Point of the Women and Gender Constituency, which supports the political participation of women's rights advocates into the climate process. Prior to WEDO, Bridget worked at LEAD International coordinating a global network of environmental leaders and conducting

leadership training. She obtained a Masters from the London School of Economics in Gender, Development and Globalization, where the focus of her research was on eco-feminism, strategic essentialism and its deployment in literature and policy, as well as a Bachelors in International

Policy. Through this work and study, Bridget has also spent time completing on site practicum on a wide variety of development issues in several countries: renewable energy infrastructure in Beijing, global health issues in Tunisia, disaster risk and resilience in Bangkok, and women's economic development in Costa Rica. She has been and is currently engaged in a number of local and international climate activist groups, as well as a feminist writing collective.



**Osprey Orielle Lake - Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network**

Osprey Orielle Lake is the Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) International. She works nationally and internationally with grassroots and Indigenous leaders, policy-makers and scientists to promote climate justice, resilient communities, and a just transition to a clean energy future. Osprey serves on the Executive Committee for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and is the visionary behind the International Women's Earth and Climate Summit, which brought together 100 women leaders from around the world to draft and implement a Women's Climate Action Agenda. She is Co-Director of the Divest, Invest, Protect Campaign and oversees WECAN's advocacy work in areas such as Women for Forests, Rights of Nature and UN Forums. Osprey is the author of the award-winning book, *Uprisings for the Earth: Reconnecting Culture with Nature*.