

Kayaani Sisters Allyship Agreements

Our Kayaani Sisters Council is a group of Indigenous leaders from different regions of Alaska who share a passion for protecting our lands, waters, and cultural traditions. We are committed to revitalizing Indigenous sovereignty: the inherent autonomy and self-determination of our Ancestors who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. Indigenous sovereignty requires an end to settler domination of life, lands, and peoples. Decision making around how humans interact with this land and the life here is rightfully that of Indigenous People. We invite allies to support and uphold this movement's work. This invitation is an honor and a responsibility to show up with empathy, humility, and dedication.

We respectfully ask our allies to adopt these guiding principles:

- We will address the problems of colonialism as our own work and take action ourselves, rather than putting the burden on Indigenous Peoples.
- We acknowledge that there are many ways of understanding the world and many ways to solve problems. We will strive to maintain a sense of curiosity and openness as we work with people who think and act differently than us.
- We do not self-identify as allies; rather, our allyship is defined by those we aim to support.
- We will not leverage our allyship for personal or professional benefit. Our allyship is not a commodity to be traded. Our work, energy, and respect is brought to this space with no expectation of a transaction.
- If we receive knowledge or stories from Indigenous People, we will make sure to have their permission before sharing this with others. We will always acknowledge who the knowledge or stories come from.
- As people within communities that benefit from colonization, we will transfer the benefits of our privilege to those who lack it.
- We will actively work to prevent any kind of oppression, such as racism, sexism, transphobia, and ableism.
- If we are honored to be adopted by any Indigenous groups, it does not come with any special rights, it comes with responsibilities. We will not use our gifted name or kinship relationships without permission or outside of ceremony. We will not represent or speak for any group, Indigenous or otherwise.
- We will hold each other accountable so that Indigenous communities don't have to do so; our education and healing is up to us. We will engage not only in social justice education but will also learn to uphold and celebrate Indigenous communities and practices.

The Kayaani Sisters are motivated and excited to create community with all who want to commit to these efforts. Together we can build a healthy culture of resistance, accountability, sustenance, and joy. We celebrate in one another and in the ongoing work of protecting Indigenous culture, practices, land and its resources.

(Kayaani Sisters acknowledges and thanks The Herring Protectors for sharing their allyship guidelines and for giving us permission to adopt them as our own.)