

## Activity Report 2021

The main focus of our work was:

**Constituent meeting:** "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples", of which AKIN is a member. The foundation of the Alliance 2020 led to a much more intensive international cooperation of the individual member organizations in 2021 than in previous years.

Support of the **fundraising campaign** for the transfer of Thomas Yellowhair from Helsinki to the Pine Ridge Reservation

Press work and releases on the **graves of indigenous children** at Canadian residential schools and the underlying genocidal politics of the Canadian government as well as the role the Catholic Church played in this

Start of activities for the **ratification of the ILO Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** by Austria

### Organizational activities

January 2021

**Constituent meeting** of the "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples" (hereinafter referred to as the "Alliance") via Zoom. The Alliance consists of the following members:

Aktionsgruppe Indianer & Menschenrechte (AGIM), München, Deutschland;  
[www.aktionsgruppe.de](http://www.aktionsgruppe.de)

*Arbeitskreis Indianer Nordamerikas (AKIN), Wien, Österreich; [www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at](http://www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at)*

Comité de Solidarité avec les Indiens des Amériques (CSIA-NITASSINAN), Paris, France:  
[www.csia-nitassinan.org](http://www.csia-nitassinan.org)

Internationales Komitee für die Indigenen Amerikas Schweiz, Zürich, Schweiz:  
[www.incomindios.ch](http://www.incomindios.ch)

MENSCHENRECHTE 3000 e.V. (HUMAN RIGHTS 3000), Freiburg, Deutschland:  
[www.menschenrechte3000.de](http://www.menschenrechte3000.de)

Tokata-LPSG RheinMain e.V.; Seligenstadt, Germany: [www.leonardpeltier.de](http://www.leonardpeltier.de)

Verein zur Unterstützung nordamerikanischer Indianer (ASNAI), Berlin, Deutschland:  
[www.asnai.de](http://www.asnai.de)

The Alliance Board members are:

Chairman: Peter Schwarzbauer (AKIN)

Deputy Chairman: Sylvain Duez-Alesandrini (CSIA-NITASSINAN)

Treasurer: Monika Seiller (AGIM)

Deputy Treasurer: Helena Nyberg (Incomindios Schweiz)

**Alliance Webseite:** <https://www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at/europeans4indigenouspeoples/>

This web page is a so-called "landing page", which contains the basic principles of the Alliance's goals, purposes and focus of the Alliance in English and in German, and links to the individual websites of each of the seven member organizations.

March 2021

### **General Assembly AKIN**

Chairman: Peter Schwarzbauer  
Deputy Chairman: Gawan Maringer  
Treasurer: Matthias Neitsch  
Without function: Angelika Fröch

April-November 2021

In addition to the constituent meeting of the Alliance there were 6 virtual meetings.

December 2021

Peter Schwarzbauer (AKIN) together with Helena Nyberg (Incomindios) contacted the president of the organization "Suomen Intiaaniyhdistys" (formerly Fincomindios), Riku Hämäläinen, in Finland to provide information on the Alliance and to talk about the possibility of an involvement in the Alliance. Personal meeting in Finland.

### **Campaigns/Protest actions**

January 2021

Letter from the Alliance to Senators of the U.S. Congress in support of the nomination of indigenous Congresswoman, Debra Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) for Secretary of the Interior.

Support of Alliance member organization Tokata's crowdfunding campaign for Menominee musician, Wade Fernandez, suffering from Covid19.

February 2021

Support of Docip's (Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information) appeal to participate in the EU consultation process to make sure that the rights and concerns of Indigenous Peoples are reflected in EU corporate accountability. This action was supported both by AKIN itself and the Alliance through submissions to the European Commission.

April 2021

Letter of condolences from the Alliance to the family of LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, who was a key spearhead in the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline (NoDAPL).

Congratulatory Letter from the Alliance to Ron Lameman (Cree/Alberta) on his appointment as Chair of the Indigenous NGO, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC).

Congratulatory Letter from the Alliance to Carletta Tilussi (Havasupai) on appointment as White House Environmental Advisor.

May 2021

Crowdfunding campaign (AKIN and Alliance) for the transfer of Thomas Yellowhair (brother of AKIN honorary member Milo Yellowhair), who died of Covid-19 in Finland. More than € 15.000 were raised and the transfer costs could be covered in full.

Congratulatory letter from the Alliance to newly appointed indigenous U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Debra Haaland.

Support for the Gwichin in Alaska. AKIN letter to the U.S. Ambassador in Austria with the request to be forwarded to the Trump Administration about the prevention of the opening of the so-called "National Arctic Wildlife Refuge" for oil and gas drilling. This is the central calving area of the caribou, which are not only a source of food for the Gwichin, but also have great cultural significance.

June 2021

Restitution of the hair shirt of Chief Hollow Horn Bear by the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt to Duane Hollow Horn Bear on the Rosebud Reservation/South Dakota. AKIN and the Alliance

have supported the restitution since 2019 through several letters to the museum's management and the city of Frankfurt.

Letter of support from the Alliance to the family of Leonard Peltier on the occasion of the memorial day of the events in Oglala.

Letter from the Alliance to Pope Francis regarding the role of the Catholic Church in the genocide of Indigenous people in Canadian residential schools. Request for apology which has not been issued until now. Copies were also sent to Canadian embassies in Europe and European embassies in Canada, as well as to Cardinal Schönborn and the Austrian Bishops' Conference.

Letter from the Alliance to Justin Trudeau concerning the exposed genocide of indigenous children in Canadian Residential Schools and the reminder that the relevant panels of the UN have been – independently of this - harshly criticizing Canada for decades for its Indigenous policies. A copy was sent to the Canadian Embassies in Europe and the European Embassies in Canada.

- September 2021 Statement of the Alliance, addressed to the European Commission and EU Parliament, against the inclusion of nuclear energy as climate-neutral energy in the so-called "EU taxonomy". Until today it is not taken into consideration that the beginning of the radioactive chain, especially the mining and smelting of uranium, massively affects indigenous peoples worldwide.
- Since September 2021 Start of activities for the ratification of the ILO Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Austria in cooperation with the legal anthropologist, Dr. René Kuppe (also a honorary member of AKIN). After decades of efforts by various NGOs, the Convention was ratified by Germany in June 2021. Dr. Kuppe had also intensively helped along this process in Germany.
- October 2021 AKIN and Alliance co-sign the Civil Society Statement against the use of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons on the occasion of the COP26 conference in Glasgow.
- Support for the Gwichin in Alaska. Petition of the Alliance to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management against plans for a renewed environmental assessment to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas exploration.
- December 2021 Letter from the Alliance to Canadian embassies in Europe regarding the brutal actions taken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) against Wet'suwet'en protesting the Coastal GasLink pipeline on their traditional territory. Copies were also sent to European embassies in Canada.
- Letter from the Alliance also directly to Justin Trudeau regarding the brutal actions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) against the Wet'suwet'en protesting the Coastal GasLink Pipeline on their traditional territory. Copies went to the European embassies in Canada.

## Media work/Press releases

- 06/03/2021 Presseausendung: Kanada: Im Namen der „Zivilisation“ – „Das Töten des Indianers im Kind“ (kill the Indian in the child) [Press release: Canada: In the name of "civilization" - "Killing the Indian in the child" (kill the Indian in the child)]
- 07/03-04/2021 Bericht: Rauscher, H.: Historisches Versagen. Der Standard – Titelseite (Kolumne „Einserkastl“) [Report: Historic failure. Der Standard – Front page (column „Einserkastl“)]
- June 2021 Korrespondenz und Interview mit der Religionsabteilung des ORF (Klaus Ther). Daraus entstanden zwei Beiträge, die im Rahmen der Sendereihe „Orientierungen“ ausgestrahlt wurden. [Correspondence and interview with religion department of the ORF (Klaus Ther). This resulted in two contributions that were broadcast as part of the "Orientierungen" series.]
- 07/04/2021 Schwarzbauer, P.: Mail to Rauscher with thanks for the column and the critical note that it is especially absurd that the perpetrator who ordered the abuse (the Canadian government)

demands an apology from the perpetrator executing the abuse and tries to get out of the affair this way.

- 08/09/2021 Presseausendung: UN-Tag der indigenen Völker 9. August 2021. Wenig Lichtblicke für Indigene Völker weltweit. (*Press release: UN Day of Indigenous Peoples August 9, 2021. Very few bright spots for indigenous peoples worldwide.*)
- 08/15/2021 Gamillscheg, M.: Kritischer Leserinnenbrief an die KATHPRESS bezüglich eines Artikels im Sonntagsblatt vom 08.08.2021 mit dem Titel „Geschichtsfälschung? Keinen Völkermord an indigenen Kindern in Kanada habe es gegeben. Kanadischer Publizist kritisiert Medienberichte“. Der Leserbrief wurde in Folge abgedruckt. [*Gamillscheg, M.: Critical reader's letter to the KATHPRESS regarding an article in the Sonntagsblatt of 08/08/2021 with the title "Geschichtsfälschung? Keinen Völkermord an indigenen Kindern in Kanada habe es gegeben. Kanadischer Publizist kritisiert Medienberichte" ("History falsification? There had been no genocide of indigenous children in Canada. Canadian publicist criticizes media reports"). The letter to the editor was subsequently printed*]
- 11/22/2021 Presseausendung: Internationaler Tag gegen Gewalt an Frauen/ International Day Against Violence Against Women (Presseausendung der European Alliance) [*Press release: International Day Against Violence Against Women (Press release of the European Alliance)*]

#### Articles written for the AKIN website (<https://www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at/>)

- January 2021 Fröch, A.: Freddie Kaydahzinne: Apache, Mediziner, Künstler, Ururenkel von Cochise – ein Nachruf [*Apache, medicine man, artist, great-great-grandson of Cochise – an obituary*]
- February 2021 Schuring, H.: "A Life in Service" – Mala Spotted Eagle and Hermine Schuring (Buchbesprechung) [*book review*]
- Hörner, K-H.: Die Odyssee der Natchez [*The Odyssey of the Natchez*]
- Harry, D.: Carrie Dann, Neue (Shoshone) Hüterin des Landes – ein Nachruf (frei übersetzt vom AKIN Mitglied Gawan Maringer) [*Carrie Dann, Neue (Shoshone) Guardian of the Land – an Obituary (freely translated by AKIN member Gawan Maringer)*]
- March 2021 Nyberg, H.: 75 Jahre Weltgemeinschaft der Völker. Haben die Indigenen Völker auch etwas zu feiern? Mit freundlicher Genehmigung übernommen aus MagazINC 54 (Incomindios Schweiz) [*75 years of the World Community of Peoples [UN]. Do indigenous peoples also have something to celebrate? Adopted with kind permission from MagazINC 54 (Incomindios Switzerland)*]
- April 2021 Gröblinger, P.: Boy Chief Trading – Ein indigenes Unternehmen trotz der Corona Krise [*Boy Chief Trading – indigenous business thrives during pandemic*]
- July 2021 Seiller, M.: Der schwierige Weg eines Cree zur Identität – „Mamaskatch“ von Darrel McLeod (Buchbesprechung). Mit freundlicher Genehmigung übernommen aus Coyote 126 [*A Cree's difficult path to identity – „Mamaskatch“ by Darrel McLeod (book review. Adopted with kind permission from Coyote 126)*]
- Schwarzbauer, P.: Überführung von Thomas Yellowhair nach Pine Ridge [*Transfer of Thomas Yellowhair's body to Pine Ridge August*]
- August 2021 Niehsner-Bruckner, A.: US-Reservate – ein sicherer „Lebensraum“? [*US-Reservations – a safe „habitat“?*]
- September 2021 Nyberg, H.: Abschied von Rex Tilousi, dem Retter des „Wellenbergs“. Mit freundlicher Genehmigung übernommen aus MagazINC 56 (Magazin von Incomindios Schweiz) [*Farewell to Rex Tilousi, the savior of the „Wellenberg“. Adopted with kind permission from MagazINC 56 (magazine of Incomindios Switzerland)*]
- October 2021 Nyberg, H.: Jedes Kind zählt – Every Child Matters. Das dunkelste Kapitel der Geschichte Nordamerikas. Mit freundlicher Genehmigung übernommen aus amerindias-Newsletter vom

Oktober 2021 der Zeitschrift des NONAM - North America Native Museum in Zürich. *[Every child matters. The darkest Chapter of North-American history. Adopted with kind permission from the amerindias-Newsletter of October 2021 of the magazine NONAM – North America Native Museum Zurich]*

December 2021

AKIN: 7 Gründe, warum wir den Begriff „Indianer“ verwenden *[AKIN: 7 reasons we use the term „indians“ („Indianer“)]*

## Events

Due to the pandemic, no “physical” events could be organized in 2021.

## Indigenous visits

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there were no physical visits to AKIN by indigenous people in 2021, but since March 2021, the Lakota, Dr. Yvette Running Horse Collin, has been a regular participant in our virtual AKIN meetings. Yvette is an enrolled tribal member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe (Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota) and is currently on a research fellowship on horse cultures at the Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse (France). Independently of her scientific activities, she has long been involved with traditional Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Elders (including with our honorary member Milo Yellowhair) for the return of the Black Hills. She has also been active as the manager of the Black Hills Sioux Nation Council in this context and wants to try, in cooperation with AKIN and the European Alliance, to put the Black Hills issue (back) on the international political agenda.

## Miscellaneous

Regular distribution of the **newsletter** by e-mail to all interested parties who have registered on our homepage: News of current events and new articles on our website about the situation of indigenous peoples of North America.

Regular posts and links of current articles and videos on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/arbeitskreisindianer/>)

Due to the pandemic, all **AKIN meetings** in 2021 were held virtually via ZOOM

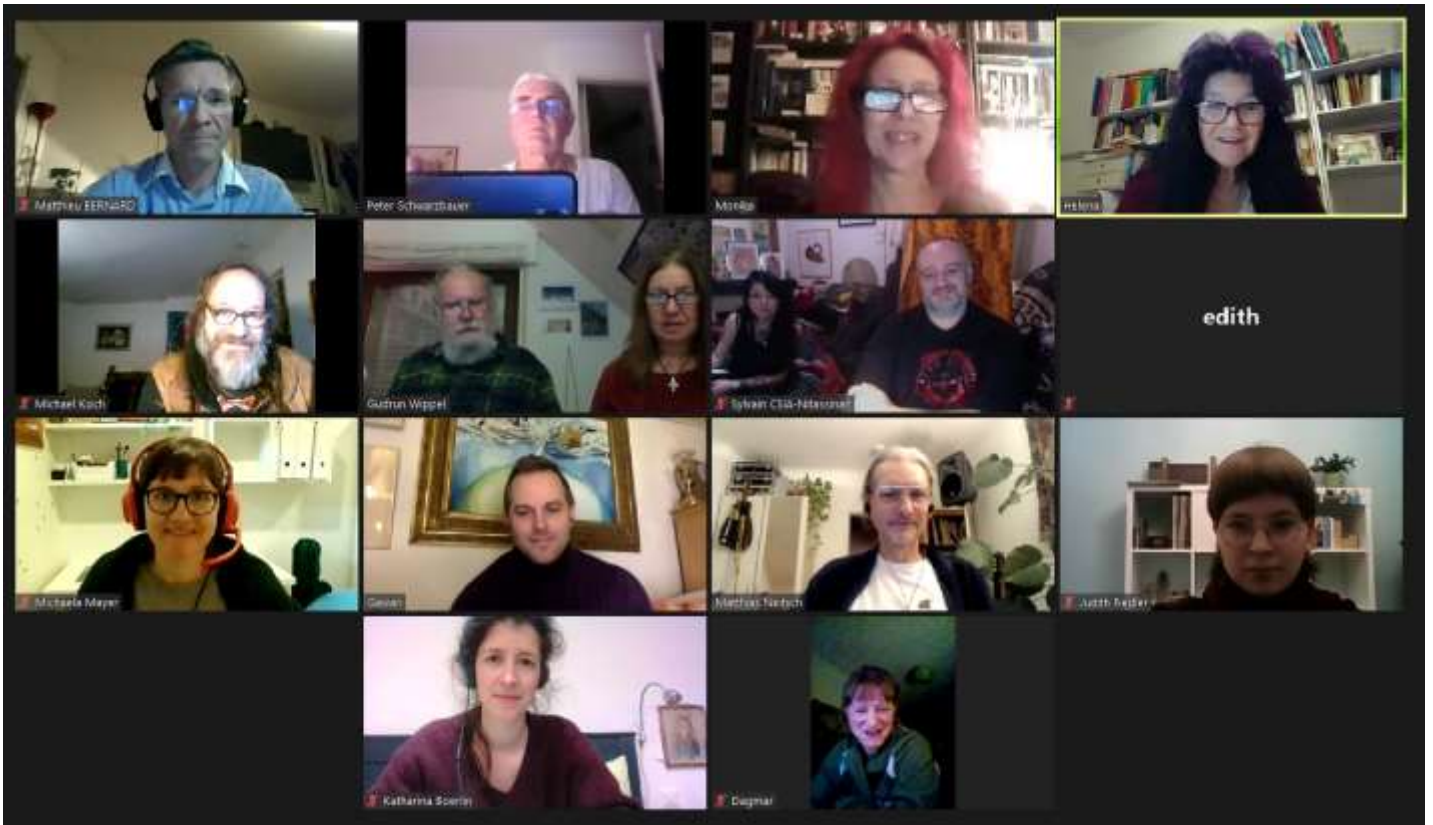


Yvette Running Horse Collin (Photo: Jacquelyn Córdova)





*The Hairshirt is back in Rosebud. (right: Duane Hollow Horn Bear)*



*Screenshot of a digital meeting of the Alliance*