



Additional Resources: Doctrine of Discovery

1. Fact Sheet on the Doctrine of Discovery
https://doctrineofdiscoverymenno.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/dofd_studyguide_handouts.pdf (pages 4-5)
2. Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery: Study Guide
<https://dofdmenno.org/study-guide/>
3. “The Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ” is a 43-minute documentary with three parts:
 - History of the Doctrine of Discovery and basis in Christian theology and scripture
 - Living the Doctrine of Discovery
 - Undoing the Doctrine of Discovery<https://dofdmenno.org/movie/>
4. Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice.
http://ili.nativeweb.org/sdrm_art.html
5. Religious Communities who have Repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery
<https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/faith-communities/>
6. Unlearning the Doctrine of Discovery
<http://thirdway.com/unlearning-doctrine-discovery/>

TIPS FOR CREATING AN INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT



Key components:

Start with self-reflection.

Before starting work on your land acknowledgment statement, reflect on the process:

- Why am I doing this land acknowledgment? (If you're hoping to inspire others to take action to support Indigenous communities, you're on the right track. If you're delivering a land acknowledgment out of guilt or because everyone else is doing it, more self-reflection is in order.)
- What is my end goal? (What do you hope listeners will do after hearing the acknowledgment?)
- When will I have the largest impact? (Think about your timing and audience, specifically.)

Do your homework.

Put in the time necessary to research the following topics:

- The Indigenous people to whom, or for whom, the land is/was home.
- The history of the land and any related treaties.
- Tribal names of living Indigenous people from these communities. If you're presenting on behalf of your work in a certain field, highlight Indigenous people who currently work in that field.
- Indigenous place names and language.
- Correct pronunciation for the names of the Tribes, places, and individuals being used.

Use appropriate language. Don't sugarcoat the past. Use terms like genocide, ethnic cleansing, stolen land, and forced removal to reflect actions of colonizers.

Use past, present, and future tenses. Indigenous people are still here, and they're thriving. **Don't treat them as a relic of the past.**

- Land acknowledgments shouldn't be grim.
- They should function as living celebrations of Indigenous communities.

Ask yourself, "How am I leaving Indigenous people in a stronger, more empowered place because of this land acknowledgment?" Focus on the positivity of who Indigenous people are today whether they still reside on that land or not.

Additional factors to consider

Don't ask an Indigenous person to deliver a "welcome" statement for your organization.

Build real, authentic relationships with Indigenous people.

In addition to normal employment and family obligations, Indigenous people are working to heal their traumas, learn their languages, and support their nations. If you reach out for help, lead the conversation by asking an Indigenous person what you can do for them. Chances are, they're likely overworked and could use your help.

Compensate Indigenous people for their emotional labor. If you do plan to reach out to an Indigenous person or community for help, compensate them fairly. Too often, Indigenous people are asked to perform emotional labor for free.

Understand displacement and how that plays into land acknowledgment. Land acknowledgment is complicated. Remember that the United States government displaced many Tribes from land before treaties were signed.

There are many types of land acknowledgments. Don't expect to find a specific formula or template. Land acknowledgments that come from Indigenous people vs. non-Indigenous people look different, too.

Take action:

- Land acknowledgment alone is not enough. It's merely a starting point. Ask yourself: how do I plan to take action to support Indigenous communities? Examples of ways to take action include:
 - Support Indigenous organizations by donating your time and/or money.
 - Support Indigenous-led grassroots change movements and campaigns. Encourage others to do so.
 - Commit to returning land. Local, state, and federal governments around the world are currently returning land to Indigenous people. Individuals are returning their land, too. Research options to return land.

At the end of the day, remember:

Starting somewhere is better than not trying at all. We need to share the discomfort of Indigenous peoples. They've been uncomfortable for a long time.

Dr. Kate Beane (Flandreau Santee Dakota and Muskogee Creek) says, "We have to try. Starting out with good intentions and a good heart is what matters most."

Visit their **resources page** <https://nativegov.org/resources/> for more helpful land acknowledgment tools! And read their own land acknowledgment statement: **The Land We're On.** <https://nativegov.org/about/our-land-acknowledgement-statement/>

Native Governance Center is a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to assisting Native nations in strengthening their governance systems and capacity to exercise sovereignty.

[HTTPS://NATIVEGOV.ORG/NEWS/A-GUIDE-TO-INDIGENOUS-LAND-ACKNOWLEDGMENT/](https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/)