

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Reader,

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been diligently protecting its treaty guaranteed lands against the encroachment of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) for many months. Despite the now imminent completion of the \$3.8 billion pipeline, Standing Rock sparked a worldwide response from indigenous communities and their allies, bringing together different social movements protecting indigenous rights and the environment. Indigenous peoples all over the world have been vehemently fighting the encroachment of pipelines and other forms of mineral extraction that threaten the safety of their health, water, culture, and lands. In light of this, Standing Rock represents a catalyst, whose unprecedented media exposure brought the battles for indigenous rights into people's living room. Our journal would like to use Volume 4 as a way to thank the Water Protectors at Standing Rock for their unwavering resilience and for reminding us why the word "resistance" is included in the title of our journal. The Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance would like to take a moment to explain what resistance means to us in the context of our publication. Here are a few words from our Editorial Staff:

"Resistance means resiliency. I don't think resistance is always a big, sweeping thing. It means commitment, and a refusal to waiver; it means strength. Resistance isn't about sustainability, it isn't about keeping something going, it's about refusing to go away."

"Resistance means defying the odds. With all the unforgivable things that have happened to Native peoples, we should have been gone a long time ago. But we're not. We are still here fighting for our right to be indigenous. Resistance is existing, living with our ancestors' blood running through our veins; reminding everyone we're still here and we're not going anywhere."

"Resistance to me means advocating for vulnerable populations shunned, misunderstood, or stigmatized by society."

"Resistance is different for everyone. The important thing is doing it."

"Our existence is our resistance. We exist because of the strength and prayers of ancestors who fought for our lives, who fought against

systems set on stripping them of their being. We must continue to fight for the earth and all beings, not only for ourselves but for our future. Our existence is our resistance.”

While it may seem that the fight at Standing Rock is over, it is not. It was merely the spark that lit the ember of Indigenous resistance in the modern era. **Standing Rock is Everywhere.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simone', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Sincerely,
Simone Anter,
Editor-in-Chief