

Proposal: 12024

## Harassment of Indigenous Rights Activists: The Digital Front

Started at: 1/14/2021 09:51 AM - Finalized at: 1/26/2021 05:39 AM

### Page: Section 1: About You

Welcome to the official RightsCon Session Proposal Form!

Proposing a session is one of the best ways to join our community, participate at RightsCon, and shape the global agenda on human rights in the digital age. Your proposal will be reviewed and evaluated by the RightsCon team and our Program Committee, a global panel of experts who advise on the development of the official program.

**In 2021, RightsCon will be hosted entirely online.** Before you submit a session, read through the [Guide to a Successful Proposal](#) on our website. The guide covers everything you need to know about the program process, including our 2021 priorities and initiatives, evaluation criteria, and more.

If your proposal is accepted, your status will transition from session designer to session organizer, and you'll receive resources and training to prepare for an online experience. Sessions accepted through the Call for Proposals will appear in the RightsCon public program and will be accessible to all registered participants of the summit.

**The RightsCon Call for Proposals deadline has now been extended until January 26, 2021 at 23:59 Pacific Standard Time.** You, as an individual, can enter a maximum of five sessions for consideration. Keep in mind that you can always save a draft of your proposal in this platform and come back to it later, once you're ready to submit. Have questions? Send our team a note at [rightscon@accessnow.org](mailto:rightscon@accessnow.org).

**A note on language:** To further our commitment to inclusion and representation of local communities, in the second section of the form, you have the option to submit your session title and description in another language. If language is a barrier to your ability to submit a session proposal, don't hesitate to reach out to our team, and we'll work with you to facilitate your participation in RightsCon.

#### First name

Nikita

#### Last name

Bulanin

**Title or position**

Programme Coordinator

**Affiliation**

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

**Stakeholder group**

Civil Society

**Email address**

nb@iwgia.org

**Country**

Russia

**Gender identity**

Man

**Personal identities****Are you co-organizing this session with someone?**

No

**Have you or your co-organizer hosted a RightsCon session before?**

No

**Have you participated in RightsCon before?**

No

**How did you hear about RightsCon?**

Our website, From a member of our community

**Why did you decide to submit a session proposal?**

**Which program category does your session fall under?**

Online Hate and Violent Extremism

This category unpacks the nature of threats perpetuated or coordinated online, and the potential for these threats to translate to offline violence. Proposals may consider the impact of hate and harassment, responses from platforms and governments, and efforts to protect targeted groups.

**Does your session touch on one of our intersecting themes?**

Indigenous rights

**Session title (in English)**

Harassment of Indigenous Rights Activists: The Digital Front

**Which institution(s) will host your session?**

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs; Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

RightsCon will support five session formats that encourage in-depth learning, interaction, and community-building. When you select an option below, a series of questions will appear. The questions are tailored to each format.

Panels, strategy sessions, and community labs are full-length (75 minute) sessions that occur live during the summit. Lightning talks and tech demos are brief (8-10 minute) presentations, which are recorded in advance and uploaded to our online platform for participants to view and comment on.

**Once you submit this form, you will not be able to change your session format at a later point in the program process.** For more details about our different formats and which one will work best for your session, check our [Guide to a Successful Proposal](#).

**Session format**

Panel

**What is your session goal? I want to:**

Identify an unexplored or emerging topic

We recommend the **panel** format for achieving this goal.

**Describe your goal.**

The session seeks to draw attention of the digital activist community to the obstacles and challenges on the way of Indigenous activism online and how harassment online often ends up in real violence against Indigenous Activists, their families and communities. It is expected that the session will help broaden the solidarity network for Indigenous Activists, as well as will link them up with experts in the field of digital security.

**Session description (in English)**

In the past few years Indigenous activists around the world fighting for their rights to land, resources and their unique way of life have been subjected to an unprecedented pressure. Entire communities have been displaced, while leaders and individual community members subjected to threats, smear campaigns, legal harassment and violence.

As the world becomes more digitalized and even very remote communities go online, it is not uncommon that physical violence and other forms of harassment are preceded by harassment online. Social media are used to spread rumors about activists, including accusations of involvement in criminal activities. Consequently, activists are hunted down on "legitimate" grounds by government's agents, militias and criminal groups. The fact that governments agents are often the ones who execute the threats delivered online points out to involvement of government agencies in cases of digital harassment.

The panel will include Indigenous activists representing different regions of the world, whose organizations or its members have been subjected to digital harassment. These activists will tell their stories and the reasons to suspect government agents to be involved in their cases. These individual cases will be placed in a broader perspective of pressure experienced by Indigenous Peoples around the world and will help analyse challenges facing Indigenous activism online.

It is hoped that in this way the session will be able to paint a nuanced picture of issues and challenges confronting online Indigenous activism.

The audience will be engaged with the use of live chats.

**What will participants gain from attending your session?**

It is expected that the session will open to participants a new facet of digital activism, that of Indigenous activist community as well as will tell a story of digital harassment that accompanies Indigenous Activism online and mechanism that transforms digital harassment into real violence. It is expected that as a result, participants will not only gain a better understanding of why Indigenous Peoples are fighting for their lands, resources and their unique way of life, but also what obstacles are standing on the way when the struggle goes online and how powerful government agencies, officially and unofficially often stand behind or are involved the cases of digital harassment.

**My session will primarily be conducted in:**

English

**Would you like to submit a selection of your answers in another language?**

No

Panels feature one facilitator and 3-4 speakers. A **facilitator** is responsible for guiding the discussion and interaction within the session. Many, but not all, session organizers choose to facilitate their session. A **speaker** brings their unique expertise and perspective to the conversation, and actively engages participants where possible.

You should strive to confirm the participation of your facilitator and speakers before you submit this form. Facilitator and speaker selections can help distinguish your session from similar proposals, and we take this information into careful consideration during our review process. Diversity is one of our core criteria for evaluating and selecting sessions for our program. You can learn more about our diversity, equity, and inclusion policies in our [Guide to a Successful Proposal](#).

**If you haven't confirmed your facilitator and/or speakers, tell us who you expect to join you.** The more detail you can offer us at this stage, the easier it is for us to envision how your session would fit into the program. You will be able to update this information later on, if your session is accepted.

**Facilitator first name**

Guangchunliu

**Facilitator last name**

Gangmei

**Facilitator position or title**

Programme Coordinator - Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy

**Facilitator affiliation**

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

**Facilitator stakeholder group**

Civil Society

**Facilitator country**

India

**Facilitator gender identity**

Woman

**Is the facilitator confirmed to participate?**

Yes

**Can we list the facilitator publicly?**

Yes

We strongly recommend that panels feature no more than 3 speakers, due to time constraints and structural limitations of an online session. Fewer people “on stage” will allow the facilitator to spend more time with each speaker, and produce a deeper, richer discussion. However, you can list **a maximum of 4 speakers** below, if you feel that doing so is critical to achieving your session goal.

**Who will speak in your session?**

**Speakers**

**Name:** Rodion Sulyandziga

**Position or title:** Expert

**Affiliation:** UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

**Stakeholder group:** Civil Society

**Country:** Russia

**Gender:** Man

**Confirmed to participate:** Yes

**Name:** Sarah Bestang K. Dekdeken

**Position or title:** Secretary General

**Affiliation:** Cordillera Peoples Alliance

**Stakeholder group:** Civil Society

**Country:** Philippines

**Gender:** Woman

**Confirmed to participate:** No

**Name:** Daniel M. Kobei

**Position or title:** Executive Director

**Affiliation:** Ogiek Peoples' Development Program(OPDP)

**Stakeholder group:** Civil Society

**Country:** Kenya

**Gender:** Man

**Confirmed to participate:** Yes

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**Name:** Nikita Bulanin

**Position or title:** Programme Coordinator

**Affiliation:** International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

**Stakeholder group:** Civil Society

**Country:** Russia

**Gender:** Man

**Confirmed to participate:** Yes

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**Page: Section 3: Final Questions**

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**Can we list your session publicly?**

Yes

**If your proposal is accepted, are you interested in connecting with other session organizers?**

Yes

**Code of Conduct**

I agree