

The Water Justice Manifesto

1. Water for All

Water and sanitation are human rights and must be accessible for all, without discrimination. Therefore, water must be under public control and recognized as a common good, not a commodity.

2. Water for a Healthy, Livable Planet

To help guarantee the human right to a healthy environment, water policies must prioritize the sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems and polluters must be held to account.

3. Respect Indigenous Rights

Indigenous peoples' knowledge and practices must be at the heart of water management around the world. Any projects affecting their territories and waters must respect Indigenous rights and self-determination.

4. Communities Can Do It

Peasant, rural and local communities engaged in community water management must be recognized, supported and actively engaged in the design and governance of local water and sanitation services.

5. No One Left Behind

Rural and informal urban communities face discrimination in accessing water and sanitation. States and international cooperation must prioritize the needs of these communities.

6. Power to Women

We reject water governance models that deepen the exploitation of women, who bear the disproportionate burden of ensuring the health and well-being of households and communities. Women must hold equal power in decision-making related to water.

7. People Over Profit

Everyone should have access to water and sanitation, not just those who can pay for it. Privatizing, commodifying and commercializing these services threatens human rights. Public funding must support public and community water management and service provision for all.

8. Taps and Toilets Everywhere

States should prioritize access to water and sanitation services in public spaces, workplaces, schools, health facilities, marketplaces and detention centers.

9. A Home for Water at the UN

To solve the water crisis, a UN intergovernmental mechanism is needed to regulate and monitor commitments on water and sanitation, one that is truly accountable to people as rights holders, not dominated by corporations or controlled by international financial institutions.