## COUNTRY PROFILE: PERU

The empire of Peru, at the period of the Spanish invasion, stretched along the Pacific from about the second degree north to the thirty-seventh degree of south latitude; a line, also, which describes the western boundaries of the modern republics of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile.

Peru was the center of the Inca empire, whose capital, Cuzco, was established in the 11th or 12th century. In 1533 the region was conquered by Spanish adventurer Francisco Pizarro, and thereafter dominated by Spain for almost 300 years as the Viceroyalty of Peru. It declared its independence in 1821, and achieved freedom in 1824.





## **COUNTRY PROFILE: BOLIVIA**

The city of Tiahuanaco was founded in what is now Bolivia about 400 BC. At its peak, it had a population of about 40–50,000. In the 15th century, the Incas conquered Bolivia. However, in 1533 the Incas were in turn conquered by the Spaniards. In 1545 silver was discovered at Potosi and the Spanish used forced labor to mine the silver.

Indigenous Bolivians became resentful of their Spanish colonizers and attempted a revolution in 1780 which was unsuccessful. In 1809, the people of La Paz declared independence. Bolivia became independent in 1825.



**Jasy Renyhê**: an ecofeminist organization that focuses on indigenous women and girls in the Bolivian Amazon and the acts of violence that affect their bodies, lives, and territories.





# COUNTRY PROFILE: CANADA

For thousands of years, hundreds of cultures and societies called the part of Turtle Island, now known as Canada, home. After several European expeditions arrived in Canada, the French founded settlements in the early 17th century. The French and British fought over control of Canada until 1763 when the French were forced to surrender all their territories. Canada gained its independence from Great Britain in 1867 when Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were federated as the Dominion of Canada. With colonization and white settlement, traditional Indigenous ways of life were forever altered. Colonial practices and policies, such as the Indian Act, pass system, reserves and residential schools, sought to control and assimilate Indigenous peoples. When combined with racism, acts of segregation, loss of land, and declining or unequal access to food resources and public services, have had devastating consequences on the health and socio-economic well-being of Indigenous peoples.

### PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS:

**Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL)** is an international solidarity organization based in Montreal that works to defend and promote human rights in reciprocity with social movements and communities in Latin America in the fight for social, environmental, economic and cultural justice.

engage

NOVA SCOTIA

**Engage Nova Scotia** is an independent non-profit driven by a vision for a more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient province. It has been engaging Nova Scotians in conversation, visioning and storytelling for over a decade.





HUMAINS

# COUNTRY PROFILE: BURKINA FASO

In 1896, the Mossi kingdom of Ouagadougou became a French protectorate after being defeated by French forces. In 1898, the majority of the region corresponding to Burkina Faso today was conquered, though there were periodic revolts by groups resisting taxation, centralized rule, forced labor, and military conscription. In 1904, these territories were integrated into French West Africa.

Originally administered as part of Côte d'Ivoire, they became a separate colony in 1919. The new colony of Upper Volta was broken up in 1932 and shared between Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Niger. In 1947 Haute-Volta (Upper Volta) was re-created with its pre-1932 boundaries, and in 1958, it achieved self-governance status and became a republic and member of the Franco-African Community. It attained full independence in 1960.





# COUNTRY PROFILE: DEM. REP. OF CONGO

Between the 14th and the early 19th centuries, the Kingdom of Kongo controlled much of western and central Africa including what is now the western portion of the DR Congo. In the late 15th century, Portuguese sailors arrived in the Kingdom of Kongo. Belgian colonization of DR Congo began in 1885 when King Leopold II founded and ruled the Congo Free State. Reports of widespread murder, torture, and other abuses in the rubber plantations led to international and Belgian outrage and the Belgian government transferred control of the region from Leopold II and established the Belgian Congo in 1908. Congo attained independence in 1960.

### PARTICIPANT Organization:



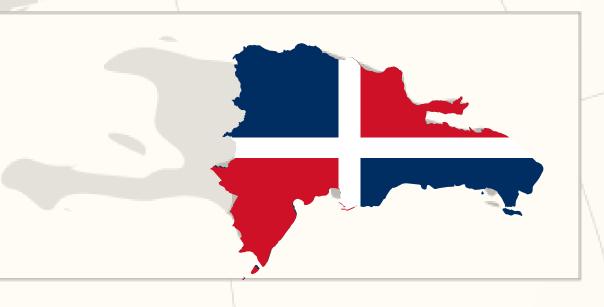
**Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés (FCPEEP-RDC)** works on environmental protections, gender equality, human rights, food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, and the rights of women and girls, as well as those of other marginalized groups, such as Pygmy Indigenous peoples.





### **COUNTRY PROFILE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

In 1492 Christopher Columbus claimed a large island in the region of the western Atlantic Ocean that later came to be known as the Caribbean for the Spanish Crown and named it La Isla Española. The Dominican Republic was originally inhabited by the Taíno people, who were nearly wiped out due to infectious diseases. Following both French and Spanish rule from as early as the 16th century, the island nation of the Dominican Republic declared itself an



independent nation from neighboring Haiti in 1844. In 1861, the Dominican Republic reverted to Spanish rule, again winning its independence in 1865.





**Junta de Prietas Collective:** a feminist, antiracist and decolonial collective, a space for possibility and encounters, and a springboard to liberatory political action that identifies and works to dismantle racist practices.

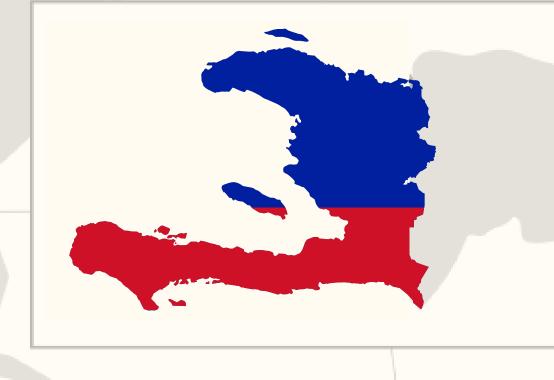
**Fundación Comunitaria Del Desarrollo de Montelargo**: a non-profit organization that uses an anti-racist perspective focusing on art, community and culture.





### **COUNTRY PROFILE: HAITI**

Haiti is one of two small countries on the island Hispaniola. Haiti is on west of the island, and the Dominican Republic to the east. Haiti is a former French colony, whereas the Dominican Republic is a former Spanish colony. The French over-exploited Haiti, enslaving thousands of Africans and forcing them to work the land for sugar cane production. Following a revolution, Haiti gained independence in 1804.



### PARTICIPANT Organization:



FEMMES VOLONTAIRES POUR UNE NOUVELLE HAITI (FVNH), a civil society organization operating in Arniquet.





# COUNTRY PROFILE: ECUADOR

Before the arrival of Spanish conquistadors in 1534, the territory now known as Ecuador was inhabited by local tribes for thousands of years. When the Spanish arrived, they took control of the land from the Inca and became part of the Spanish empire, where the indigenous inhabitants suffered from forced labour and diseases brought across the Atlantic by the Spanish.

Ecuador gained independence from Spain in 1822 as a part of Gran Colombia when Simon Bolivar's armies defeated Spain, and Ecuador became an independent country in 1830 after separating from Gran Colombia.

#### PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATION: NAVEGANDO LIBRES POR LA RED

**Navegando Libres**: a program by Taller de Comunicación Mujer that focuses on digital gender violence and promotes the digital rights of women, girls and LGBTIQ people.





## **COUNTRY PROFILE: SPAIN**

After the discovery and conquest of America, Spain formed an empire that extended across four continents. At the present time, Spain forms part of the group of countries with the most advanced level of development. It plays an active role in the main international forums and organizations, such as the UN, NATO, the OECD and the G-20. Spain is also a Member State of the European Union, the leading trade bloc in the world, and maintains its firm commitment to further developing integration in Europe.





**Migrantes Transgresorxs**: a collective based in Madrid that works uses artistic tools to highlight the political struggles of migrants.





### COUNTRY PROFILE: KENYA

Located in East Africa, Kenya is a country of over 40 million people. Kenya is divided into 47 counties that are administrated via a bicameral legislative system. It was colonized by Britain in the 19th Century. Through people's resistance, including the Mau Mau Revolution, Kenya attained independence in 1963.

### PARTICIPANT ORGANZATIONS: queerhive





**Queerhive Kenya:** a youth-centered, creative and social support organization for lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) womxn and gender nonconforming persons.

Jinsiangu: an organization that works to enhance the lives and wellbeing of intersex, transgender and gender non-conforming (ITGNC) persons in Kenya.



