## **Women Speak Out for Treaty**

'We the Aboriginal Peoples of Australia have been waiting for over 200 years for formal and binding agreements with Government. We want the opportunity to take control over our lives and determine our futures through legal agreements, compacts, covenants or treaties established in law and enforceable in the courts'. 'Treaties' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU\_olQy60

There is great discussion around recognition in our constitution, but where is the acknowledgement that this land has never been ceded? Where is the recognition that basic rights are being denied and no redress is being made? No treaty has ever been signed with our First Nations Peoples.

First Nations Peoples' Rights are under attack from many sides. The Intervention was imposed accompanied by the army and with no consultation with the communities affected. First Nations People have stood and fought with all means available to expose the sham of the Intervention/Stronger Futures and yet it has been extended for another 10 years with even more draconian measures. The terrible impact of this policy can no longer be hidden. On every marker of social wellbeing people have suffered more, with increased child removals, homelessness, incarceration, self-harm and suicide. Governments both State and Federal have acted with impunity and are bringing in further laws to shut down remote communities and erode already weak land rights. Mining companies are persecuting exploration rights across the country and communities such as Borroloola are dealing with pollution of their waters by zinc mining. Many are fighting CSG fracking.

'Under the Intervention we lost our rights as human beings, as Australian citizens, as First People of the Land. We feel very deeply the threat to our languages, our culture and our heritage. Through harsh changes we have had removed from us all our control over our communities and our lives. Our lands have been compulsorily taken from us. We have been left with nothing.' Statement of Elders: 'Walk With Us' 2011.

The call for Treaties is strong from First Nations People as they attempt to protect rights to which they should be entitled under International Law. Come and hear First Nations women speak out.