



**PACIFIC
CENTER**
FOR HUMAN GROWTH

Pacific Center for Human Growth
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Pacific Center - Land Acknowledgement Statement

A land acknowledgement is a small way of perpetuating the visibility of those who came before us and who are still the rightful stewards of the land we are on, many of whom continue to thrive and fight for land back. It must be paired with action and transparency about our relationship with our local Native community. We acknowledge the legacy of the nationwide genocide and occupation that began when Europeans arrived in what we now know as the United States. Today, we run our organization upon Huchiun, the violently stolen and ancestral land of the Lisjan (Ohlone), Karkin (Ohlone), Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok, Wappo, Delta Yokut and Napien (Patwin) people. Every inhabitant of Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, and San Joaquin counties has and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this land. The theft of the land we occupy was, and is, a fundamental practice of settler colonialism. We acknowledge that the ways in which non profit organizations (including our own) function today is a direct result of settler colonialism and that we are complicit in the continued occupation of stolen land.

Pacific Center recognizes that the legacy of colonialism directly impacts the mental health and well-being of Indigenous folx and their descendants, particularly at the intersections of sexual orientation and gender. The institutions, theories and interventions of the mental health field have excluded and pathologized Indigenous practices and people. A land acknowledgement is meaningless without corresponding action. We strive to consistently deepen our commitment and make more visible our relationship to and support of our local native community. We have an emerging partnership with [BAAITS](#) (Bay Area American Indian Two - Spirits) which we are continuing to build. We were honored that they accepted our invitation to speak at the grand opening of our new space, and we are contracting with them regularly for didactic trainings related to Indigenous and two - spirit care. We have also contracted with Sogorea Te' Land Trust, an urban Indigenous womxn-led land trust based in the San Francisco Bay Area that facilitates the return of Indigenous land to Indigenous peoples.



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Pacific Center is committed to continually decolonizing our mental health practices. In accordance with our [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vision](#), we seek to further divest from historical colonialism. We truly imagine a world in which everyone has access to culturally responsive care. Our commitment to offering such mental health care LGBTQIA+ and QTBIPOC folx explicitly includes Native peoples. We are available to serve them and/or connect them with organizations and services better equipped to attend to their specific needs. As we learn more about our local Native communities and their causes, we will take every opportunity to support and uplift their voices. We will deepen our efforts to cultivate reciprocal relationships with local Native organizations, seeking and responding to their council. We will strive for Native representation in our client base, staff and board. We will continue to honor our responsibility by paying our [Shuumi land tax](#) in proportion to our annual organizational budget. Please see additional resources below:

Resources:

<https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/shuumi-land-tax/>

<https://native-land.ca/>

PC works with <https://www.baaits.org/> Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits