



CHIEF OREN LYONS

Oren Lyons is a Native American and Faith keeper of the Turtle Clan of Onondaga Nation of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. He is a recognised advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples. He has worked for the UN's Working Group on Indigenous Populations and in 1992 he addressed the General Assembly of the UN at the opening of the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.



Selected Quotations

- "If you do not have a moral question in your governing process, then you do not have a process that is going to survive."
- "We've got to think now, in real terms, for that seventh generation . . . We've got to get back to spiritual law if we are to survive."
- "In our perception all life is equal, and that includes the birds, animals, things that grow, things that swim. All life is equal in our perception."
- "Life will go on as long as there is someone to sing, to dance, to tell stories and to listen."
- "We have to do that. We have to be thankful. That's what we said. Two things were told to us: To be thankful, so those are our ceremonies, ceremonies of thanksgiving. We built nations around it, and you can do that, too. And the other thing they said was enjoy life. That's a rule, a law- enjoy life- you're supposed to."



Online Materials:

- [Video clip from a recent interview on rights, responsibilities and individualism](#)
- [Chief Oren Lyons - The Roots of American Democracy | Bioneers \(2014\)](#)
- [Oren Lyons on the Indigenous View of the World \(2016\)](#)

Further reading

- 1 hour documentary about Oren Lyons from 1991
- Exiled in the Land of the Free: Democracy, Indian Nations & the U.S. Constitution (1998)
- Basic Call to Consciousness (2005)