

Transcription of narration for the Video: "Teach Chiapas. Part One: Women in the Zapatista movement"

Schools for Chiapas presents:

Teach Chiapas video series

Part One: Women in the Zapatista Movement

In the state of Chiapas, Mexico, land is life. Land is power. Land is freedom.

Since the Zapatistas reclaimed their lands in 1994, the lives of Mayan women have improved dramatically.

[English Subtitles over spoken Spanish]

Before the Zapatistas (EZLN), men and women were abused by the landholder.

Women were not respected, we were ignored.

They told us that only men had rights.

Even our fathers told us we were worthless.

[English Subtitles over spoken Spanish]

When we joined the Zapatistas, little by little women started seeing the reality around us.

We realized that things had to change.

That's why we decided to organize and join the Zapatista struggle.

Because we, indigenous Zapatista women, are a proud and dignified community.

Zapatista communities organize to uphold and protect their rights as indigenous women and men.

They cover their faces in public to say: "We are Zapatistas. We work for freedom and to make a better world."

They live in small farming communities, and grow corn, beans, and other basic foods.

And they are organizing for more than land:

For many years the Zapatistas have demanded their right to: health care, education, work, housing, food, independence, freedom, democracy, justice, and peace.

Women are fully involved in community assemblies where decisions are made democratically.

Together with the Zapatista leader Comandanta Ramona, Zapatista women wrote their own Revolutionary Women's Law to guarantee their right to full participation in their communities.

[English Subtitles over spoken Spanish]

We wrote the Revolutionary Women's Law.

It's about the right to decide how many children we want to have.

The right not to be forced into marriage.

The right to choose what kind of work we want to do for community.

Women teach in community-controlled schools, work in Zapatista health care centers, participate in the Zapatista government, work on their farms and in their households, and make their own videos and radio shows.

They work together to sell their weaving and handicrafts at a fair price to help support their families.

[English Subtitles over spoken Spanish]

For years, we sold our work on the street at very low prices.

Then we started to meet, to discuss and analyze: we decided to organize a women's artisan cooperative.

In addition to working within their communities, Zapatista women have organized international gatherings for thousands of women from around the world, inspiring change.

[English Subtitles over spoken Spanish]

We ask all women, in Mexico and around the world,

to keep on organizing and working for a new world where everyone belongs,

so that our sons and daughters may live in a different world.

For more information about the Zapatista movement, including resources for teachers and students, visit: [www.schoolsforchiapas.org](http://www.schoolsforchiapas.org)

[Credits]

Produced by Schools for Chiapas

Edited by Genevieve Roudané

Narrated by Luz Aida Ruíz Martínez

Still photography by Kate Kunath

Archival material from the following films  
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Films made by Zapatista Autonomous Rebel Communication Centers:

“La vida de la mujer en resistencia” Caracol III

“Educación en resistencia” Caracol III

“La tierra es de quién la trabaja” Caracol V

“Mujeres por la dignidad” Caracol II

“Promocional de Promedios: Tour '99”  
Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria

“El derecho de ser feliz”  
ZZ Colectivo  
zz-colectivo@gmx.net

“Entrevista a la Junta de Buen Gobierno de La Realidad  
y a Promotores y Promotoras de la zona”  
Gruppe B.A.S.T.A y CIEPAC A.C.

“2012 The Mayan Word”  
Melissa Gunasena,  
Undercurrents Productions

Music

“Adventure Darling,” “Pony” by Gillicuddy

“Flicker” by Origambiro

“Ventre” by Los Grammarian Monkeys, from the compilation  
Rola La Lucha Zapatista

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