

**ORIENTATION FOR 2017 NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING**

**WHAT IS NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING?**

An annual tradition since 1970, Day of Mourning is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day. Many of us fast from sundown the day before through the afternoon of that day (and have a social after Day of Mourning so that participants in DOM can break their fasts). We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. NDOM is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in action. Over the years, participants in Day of Mourning have buried Plymouth Rock a number of times, boarded the Mayflower replica, and placed ku klux klan sheets on the statue of William Bradford, etc.

**WHEN AND WHERE IS DAY OF MOURNING?**

Thursday, November 23, 2017 (U.S. "thanksgiving" day) at Cole's Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 12 noon SHARP. Cole's Hill is the hill above Plymouth Rock in the Plymouth historic waterfront area.

**WILL THERE BE A MARCH?**

Yes, there will be a march through the historic district of Plymouth. Plymouth agreed, as part of the settlement of 10/19/98, that UAINE may march on Day of Mourning without the need for a permit as long as we give the town advance notice.

**PROGRAM:** Although we very much welcome our non-Native supporters to stand with us, it is a day when only Indigenous people speak about our history and the struggles that are taking place throughout the Americas. Speakers will be by invitation only. This year's NDOM is dedicated to all our relatives – including those in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean and in Mexico -- who are devastated by hurricanes, climate destruction and earthquakes. We will also have a special message from Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier. #WaterIsLife  
Please note that NDOM is not a commercial event, so we ask that people do not sell merchandise or distribute leaflets at the outdoor program. If you have literature to distribute, you are welcome to place it on a literature table at the social hall following the speak-out and march. Also, we ask that you do not eat (unless you must do so for medical reasons) at the outdoor speak-out and march out of respect for the participants who are fasting. Finally, dress for the weather!

**SOCIAL:** There will be a pot-luck social held after the National Day of Mourning speak-out and march this year. Preference for first seatings will be given to Elders, young children and their caretaker, pregnant women, Disabled people, and people who have traveled a long distance to join National Day of Mourning. Please respect our culture and our wish to ensure that these guests will be the first to be able to sit and eat. With this understanding in mind, please bring non-alcoholic beverages, desserts, prepared fresh fruit & vegetables, and pre-cooked entrée items (turkeys, hams, stuffing, vegetables, casseroles, rice & beans, etc.) that can be easily re-warmed at the social hall prior to the social. Our amazing kitchen crew makes great food, with plenty of vegetarian and vegan dishes, too, but if you have special dietary needs, please bring something that will suit you so you will not be unhappy. Thank you.

Kitchen volunteers: Please contact us via [info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) to offer your services.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Please check the facebook event page for 48th National Day of Mourning 2017 <https://www.facebook.com/events/187901245087869> for updates on transportation, including possible buses and carpooling. We do not recommend MBTA service as it is limited on a holiday.

**DONATIONS:** Monetary donations are gratefully accepted to help defray the costs of the day. <https://www.youcaring.com/uainenatldayofmourningindigenousofpeoplesdaycosts-981636>