

PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

KANDI MOSSETT

energy & climate campaign organizer

“You’re not guaranteed change when you make your voice heard against injustice; but you’re guaranteed to fail if you remain silent.”

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COURTESY OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN RISING

Background Information

Kandi Mossett was born on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota and is a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes.ⁱ She received her bachelor’s and master’s degree at the University of North Dakota.ⁱⁱ Mossett’s journey into environmental advocacy work began with the Indigenous Environmental Network as a Tribal Campus Climate Change Organizer.ⁱⁱⁱ In the role, she organized community gardens and mobilized students to protest fossil fuel companies.^{iv} Most of Mossett’s organizing work involves exposing how

corporate destruction of the environment is harmful to affected communities.

Mossett’s Resistance

In 2016 Mossett joined protestors and encamped for months at Standing Rock to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline.^v Activists asserted the pipeline would contribute to climate change, destroy the local ecosystem, and permanently contaminate the water source and vegetation. The unwanted results could cause health problems and impact multiple communities. Mossett and protestors were harassed and faced violent hostility from law enforcement and pipeline corporation workers. Mossett continued her activism in Washington D.C. in 2016 by lobbying lawmakers not to support the building of the pipeline.^{vi} Mossett’s communication skills were essential in informing people in her community about the pipeline as an environmental justice issue. She worked to empower others in how to fight against companies that cause permanent ecological and biological harm.^{vii} Mossett’s organizing efforts have worked to preserve the livelihoods of Indigenous communities and ecosystems. She continues grassroots work in different tribal communities to fight for a more equitable climate future for all.

Achievements

Under Mossett’s guidance, activists shut down the solid waste disposal pit and relocated displaced residents in her hometown.^{viii} Mossett’s environmental work rejects corporate greed and their creation of dehumanizing living conditions for Indigenous communities.^{ix}

Essential Questions

1. How did Kandi Mossett start her environmental advocacy work?

2. What is the importance of organizers' ability to effectively communicate their demands?

3. ***“You’re not guaranteed change when you make your voice heard against injustice; but you’re guaranteed to fail if you remain silent.”***
 - a. What do you think she means by this? Do you agree or disagree with her position?

ⁱ “Kandi Mossett | Americans Who Tell The Truth.” <https://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/kandi-mossett>.

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^v “Kandi Mossett | Americans Who Tell The Truth”

^{vi} “Kandi Mossett | Americans Who Tell The Truth”

^{vii} Global Justice Ecology Project. “Kandi Mossett,” March 25, 2014. <https://globaljusticeecology.org/media-programs/new-voices-speakers-bureau/kandi-mossett/>.

^{viii} “Kandi Mossett.”

^{ix} “Kandi Mossett.”