# Stories of Girls' Resistance



### YUMZHANA, BURYATIA, RUSSIA

**Coloring Pages** 

"In kindergarten, when I was five or six everything was divided according to gender. You are a girl, you can't do this. You are a boy, you can't do this. I didn't like it. Why couldn't I do what I wanted? That was the first time I had such thoughts."

Yumzhana is a student at the International University of Mongolia, studying fashion design. She paints, is an eco activist, and launched her brand of clothing two years ago. Her story is one where feminism, spirituality, Buryatian culture, art and ecology intertwine and take the shape of a fabric ready to be painted as a sign of cultural resistance. She belongs to the Buryat people, an Indigenous community long targeted by Sovietera repression and the enduring impacts of Russian colonialism.

Girls are full of power





# AKOLA, GUYANA

"Resistance means community, it means feeling strongly enough to see something that might not necessarily be affecting you but somebody else and saying it might be time to do something or say something." Akola identifies as a queer, Afro-Indigenous, young mother of one, who has been involved in advocacy since the age of 19. Her resistance is tethered to her identity and her desire to make a better world for her and her daughter to live in. Akola knows what it means to rise up from being oppressed and taking a stand, not just for herself, but for those who need the extra help as well.

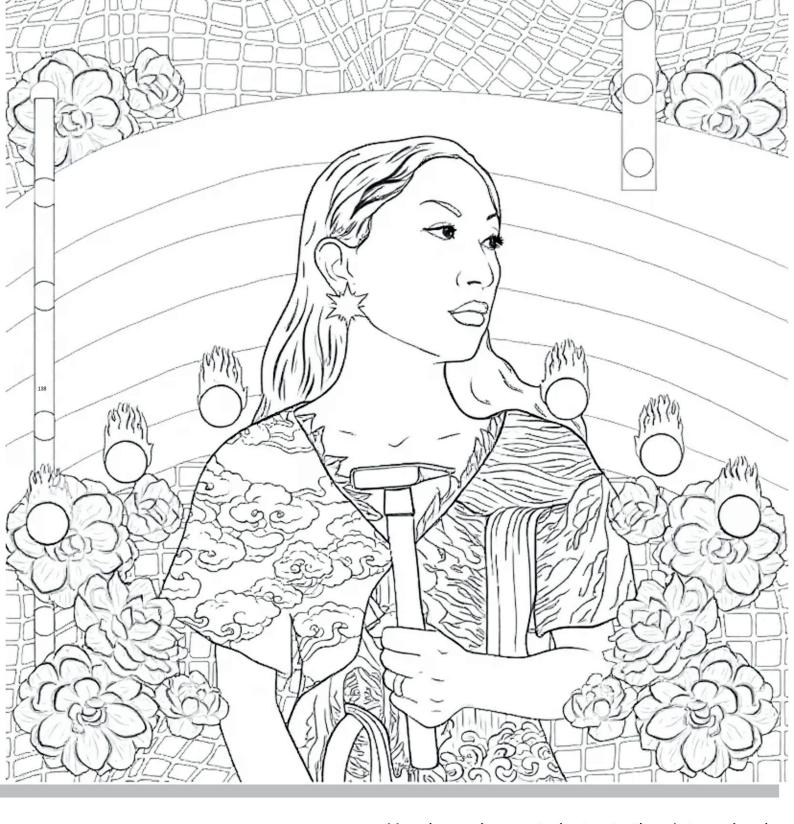
Illustration by Elizabeth Barrera



### AHED TAMINI, PALESTINE

"What gave me strength to continue my resistance is my sisters in prison, who used to tell me that they trust me and they believe inprison, my ability to change and to resist. I feel so sad that I left them in and I wish they were with me now."

""Zionists' ideology claims that they have the right to take other people's land, to push them out. And I can't accept this. No Palestinian can accept this. No human should accept this. It's not racist to say this —it's the opposite. We need a country where Jews and Christians and Muslims can live together as equals, with the same human rights and democracy."



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Illustration by Anna Rabko



## JOSELINE, GUATEMALA

"Thinking about my niece, I would say that it is worth imagining, it is worth dreaming, that it is worth being angry. Wanting to build better environments; safe, healthy, happy, dignified, rebellious, feminist and above all, women's environments".

Joseline always tells me: "We are beautiful and powerful, the strength comes from our uterus, from the heart and our smile. You are smart, and absolutely no one can harm you." And, she says with determination, "We can be whatever we want. Whatever we choose or want in our life. We need to work a little, yes, because the world is unfair. But it is possible." Her words connect deeply and transform into actions.