

**The Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)  
Guatemala Accompaniment Project Application**

By completing and returning this application form you will be applying to participate in the Guatemala Accompaniment Project (GAP), a project of the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA).

We will use the information you provide, along with conversations with your references who filled out the reference forms, a Spanish assessment and a telephone conversation with you, to assess whether you fit our criteria for accompaniment. The information will be confidential to NISGUA.

If we think you possess the qualities and experience for undertaking human rights accompaniment work, we will invite you to NISGUA's one-week training course in the U.S., followed by a further seven-day training in Guatemala. Training is an opportunity for you to explore in more depth whether you wish to participate in GAP and for us to make an informed judgment about your eligibility for accompaniment work. Training consists of information sessions, discussions, role-plays and interactive learning situations designed to prepare applicants for accompaniment in Guatemalan communities. There is a sliding scale fee for training, which can be covered by accompanier fundraising.

**Please answer each question in a separate document.**

**Section A: Background Information**

- 1. Name:**
- 2. Current Address:**
- 3. Home Phone:**
- 4. Work Phone:**
- 5. Cell Phone:**
- 6. Email:**
- 7. Permanent Address (if different from above):**
- 8. Date of Birth:**
- 9. Citizenship:**
- 10. Passport Number, issue date, and date of expiration:**
- 11. Date available for accompaniment:**
- 12. Preferred training date:**
- 13. Length of commitment (minimum six months):**
- 14. How did you find out about GAP?**

## **Section B: Health Information**

Most accompaniers visit areas where they will live in under-resourced living conditions. You will encounter accommodations with limited/no electricity or running water. Medical attention is generally available in the communities we work with through community health promoters, but access to formal clinics or hospitals is limited.

Travel in Guatemala can be long and uncomfortable, involving transportation by river boat, truck or old school bus. Some villages are not on a road and can take several hours to reach on foot. Some are in hot, humid climates. Hiking in rough terrain may sometimes be required. Please take into account these living/working/traveling conditions when considering your physical and mental health and let us know about anything that might be a challenge for you.

All accompaniers will have travel insurance paid for by their sponsoring community.

**15: How would you describe your general health?**

**16: Do you have any health challenges you would like us to know about?**

## **Section C: Related Experience**

**17. Describe any experience(s) you have had visiting or living in the global South, especially Guatemala or other Latin American countries. How did you adjust? What challenges arose?**

**18. What is your experience with anti-oppression ideas? How might these ideas be relevant to international accompaniment?**

**19. Have you ever lived in a community or group situation? If yes, please briefly describe your experience, mentioning both positive and challenging aspects. What did you learn about how you deal with conflict?**

**20. Summarize briefly your understanding of the present political/social/economic reality of Guatemala. What are the main issues affecting the country? What is your perception of the role of the U.S. government in Guatemala?**

**21. What is your understanding of international accompaniment and how it functions?**

**22. What experience do you have creating or using materials for educational, activist, and advocacy purposes? What are your ideas for educating people in the US about issues related to accompaniment work in Guatemala?**

#### **Section D: Language Skills**

We will conduct an initial Spanish test with you over the telephone before inviting you to training. Accompaniers must be proficient in Spanish when they start work in Guatemala, but applicants who are not at this stage of language proficiency can study in an immersion program in Guatemala before starting accompaniment. We do not normally consider applicants who need more than six weeks intensive study. Language assessment will continue during training in Guatemala City and additional study may be required if language skills are not adequate. The accompanier covers the cost of Spanish study, but many accompaniers fundraise to cover this cost.

**23. How would you rate your Spanish proficiency?  
Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Fluent, or Native Speaker**

**24. Please describe IN SPANISH what experience you have using the language, and how you learned it.**

#### **Section E: Personal Reflections**

**25. What issues (social, political, other) concern you the most? Why?**

**26. Describe any experience you have had which was outside your cultural context, such as living alongside people of social classes, ethnic origins, spiritual beliefs, etc, which were different from your own. What was positive about the experience? What was challenging about it?**

**27. In what ways would you bring the experience of living and working as an accompanier back to the US?**

**28. Please describe a situation in which you faced severe stress. How did you respond to these circumstances? What did you learn about what you might need to respond differently in the future?**

**29. Please share with us a little about your general well-being practices. How might you prepare for and sustain your well-being as an accompanier in Guatemala?**

**30. Who are the most important people in your life, and what do they think about the possibility of you becoming an accompanier in Guatemala?**

If you have close family (long-term partner, children, chosen family) from which you will be separated, please let us know. We would also like to know what they think about you going to Guatemala, how you think you would cope with being separated from them and how you think your experience in Guatemala would impact your relationship.

**Please enclose a detailed resume that includes your paid and unpaid work experience, volunteer/activism/other social change work, as well as your education.** (We're more interested in content than format.)

**Electronic Signature:**

**Date:**

Thank you for completing this application form.

**Please email your completed application to [gap@nisgua.org](mailto:gap@nisgua.org) and also send a hard copy to:**

Guatemala Accompaniment Project/NISGUA  
436 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 409  
Oakland, CA 94612

Questions can be directed to the same email address or by telephone at 510-868-0612 or 510-238-8400.