

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 (G.A.P.), 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, and a telephone conversation with you that includes a Spanish assessment, to determine 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 five-day training session in Guatemala. Training is part of the selection process. It is an opportunity for you to explore in more depth whether you wish to participate in G.A.P. 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.

Please use the space you need to answer each question fully.

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 G.A.P.?

Section B: Health Information

Most accompaniers live and work in rustic conditions. It is likely that your living quarters will have limited electricity and 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 and 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 cause you a problem.

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

15: How would you describe your general health?

16: Do you have any health problems that would interfere with your ability to work as an accompanier? Do you take any regular medication?

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

19. Have you ever lived in a community or group situation? If yes, please briefly describe your experience, mentioning both positive and challenging times. 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?

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. Final acceptance is dependent on a language assessment, which will be carried out in Guatemala. The accompanier normally covers the cost of Spanish study, but many accompaniers fundraise to cover this cost.

22. How would you rate your Spanish proficiency?

Beginner Intermediate Fluent Native Speaker

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

Section D: Personal Reflections

23. What social/moral issues concern you the most? Why?

**24. What do you personally want to get out of your work in Guatemala?
What are your plans when your commitment with NISGUA is over?**

25. Please describe a situation in which you faced severe stress. How did you react?

26. 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 a long-term partner and/or children, 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 with your partner and/or children.)

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.)

Signature:

Date:

Thank you for completing this application form. Please email it to gap@nigua.org. If you don't have access to email, a hard copy can be mailed to:

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

Questions can be directed to the same email address or 510-238-8400.