# DIGITISING THE SACRED: MAYA WOMEN'S Cosmovision online

M. GIOVANNA MIRALLES TERÁN DE WILKIN PHD STUDENT, CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY

School of Creative Arts and Humanities Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Education

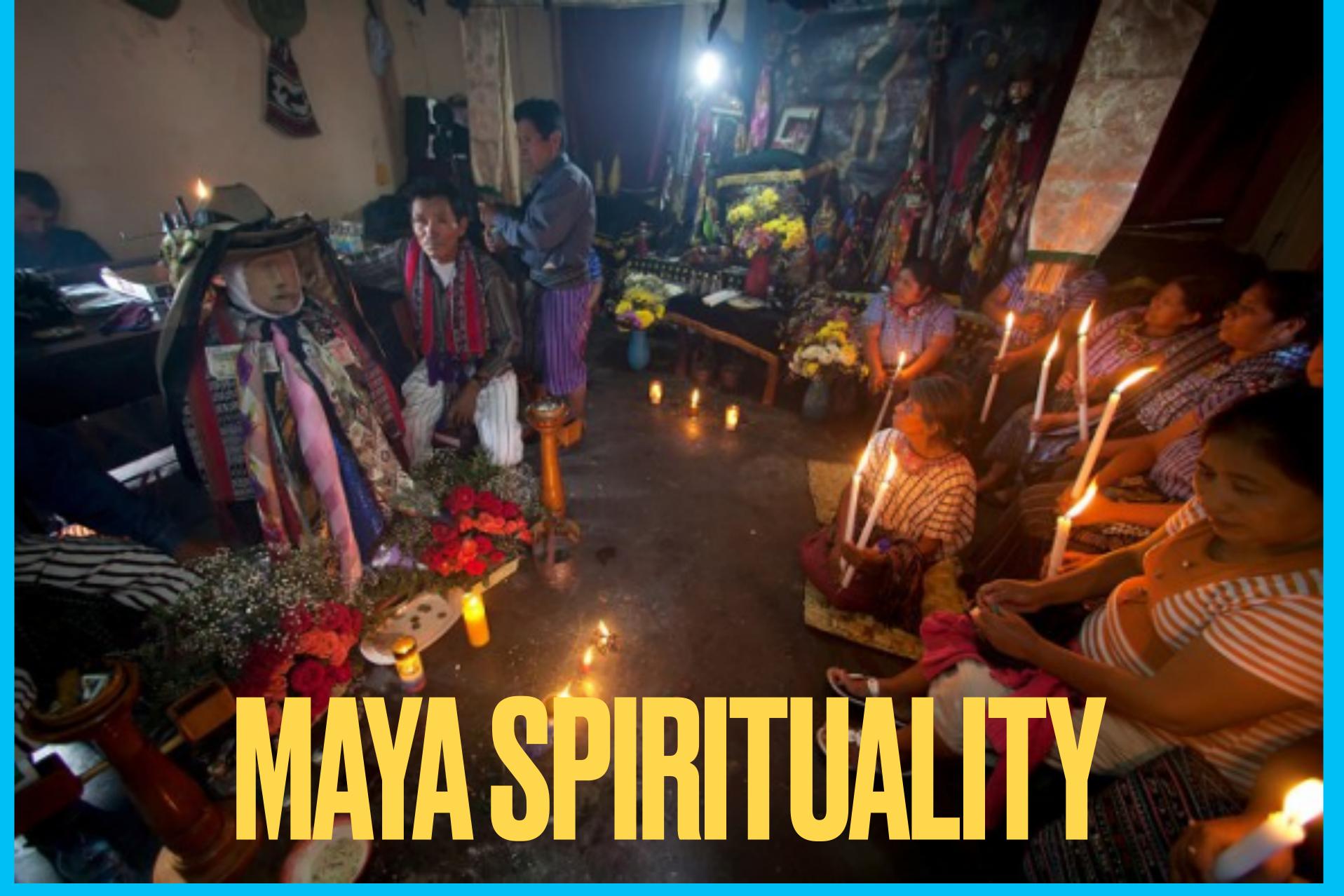
Supervisors: Doctor Ruth Sanz Sabido Professor Shane Blackman



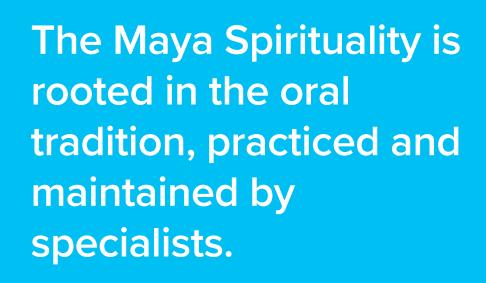
National Movement of Midwives Nim Alaxik Logo in Facebook

### MAYA WHY DIGITISATION? THE MAYA CALENDAR CHOLO'IJ AJQJAB





Maximón Santiago Atitlán



It recognises that we all have the same god, but with different names and the Maya cosmovision's respect for everything that exists in nature. (López Molina, 2007)

The Maya Spirituality was recognised as a symbol of identity and political rights in the **Peace Agreements** (1997).



### **ON POSTMEMORY**

# CAN BE NEITHER FULLY UNDERSTOOD NOR RECREATED."

**HIRSCH (1996)** 

**"THE EXPERIENCE OF THOSE WHO GROW UP DOMINATED BY NARRATIVES** THAT PRECEDED THEIR BIRTH... SHAPED BY TRAUMATIC EVENTS THAT

#### **CULTURAL RESISTANCE**

### TAKING CARE OF THE TRADITIONS

- The indigenous population of Latin America has been able to protect their culture, languages and knowledge by maintaining their beliefs and spiritual practices.
- The role of the Aj'quijab': a Maya living memory.
- Symbols of power: *Pixom Kakal* or *la vara*, bundle of glory and majesty, the Maya cross.
- La vara is used as a mnemonic system and oracle.



Giovanna Miralles' Archive



Saq'Be' Organisation

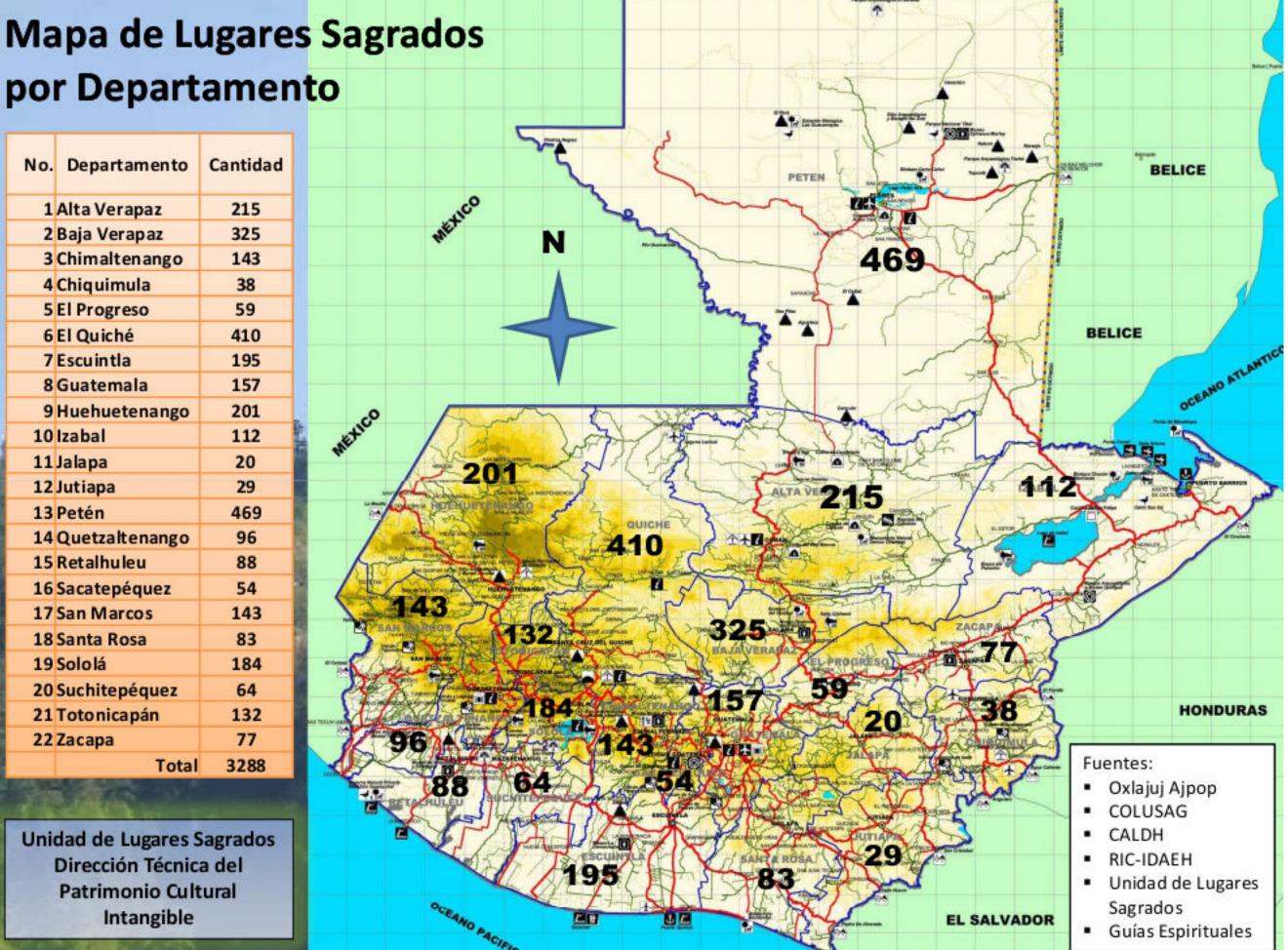


National Movement of Midwives Nim Alaxik Facebook 08-10-2021

## Maintaining knowledge, cosmovision and identity

No.	Departam
1	Alta Verapa
2	Baja Verapa
3	Chimaltena
4	Chiquimula
5	El Progreso
6	El Quiché
7	Escuintla
8	Guatemala
9	Huehueten
10	Izabal
11	Jalapa
12	Jutiapa
13	Petén
14	Quetzalten
15	Retalhuleu
16	Sacatepéqu
17	San Marcos
18	Santa Rosa
19	Sololá
20	Suchitepéq
	Totonicapá
22	Zacapa
1	
	N. 100

Dirección Técnica del **Patrimonio Cultural** 









# DARCHOLOTU

E

RAMDNA

The Cholq'ij is a lunar calendar that has 260 days in a year, 13 months and 20 days in each month.

Every day has a *Nawal*, a bearer who carries each day .

The Sacred Mayan Calendar is written in our body that has: 13 main joints 10 fingers + 10 toes = 20

20 x 13 = 260

Story of Don Patricio by Ramona Lucia Garcia Tzunun

### THE*CHOLOTJ* As a tool for specialists

THE CHOLQ'IJ IS A LUNAR CALENDAR AND FOR THE SAME REASON OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE MIDWIVES' WORK, WHO ARE ABLE TO FOLLOW WOMEN CYCLES AND DETERMINE BIRTH DATES THROUGH ITS USE



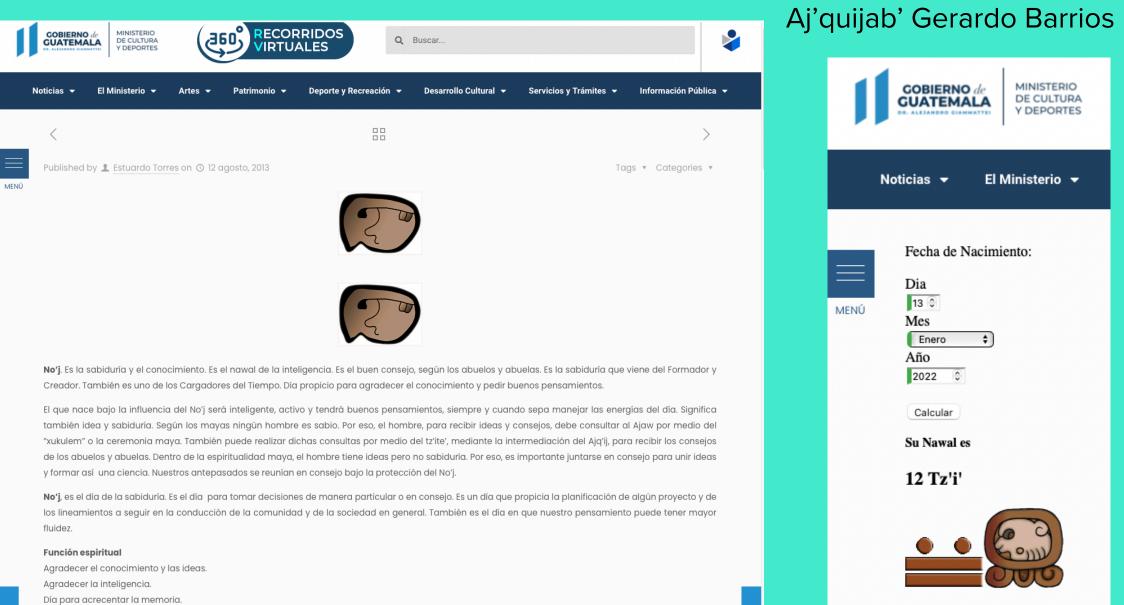
### MAYANSATION AND THE THE CHOLOU'IJ FROM A SPECIAL IST CALENDAR TO A SYMBOL OF IDENTITY

The Aj'quijabs and midwives are the guardians of the Maya tradition and the calendar's knowledge.

By moving online, the Cholq'ij went from being a specialist calendar, interpreted by an Aj'quijab, inside a community in a defined time and context, to being standardised and available to everybody.



UCATE KABAN IEXICA OLLIN		EL DIA DEL KABANIL NO' J CHIKAAN
RIGE EL CEREBRO		BOLKAAN
ANAL COYOTE PAJARO CARPINTERO	S PEDIR BUENA MEMORIA ESTUDIANTES	ES EL TEMPLO MAYA
EL PODER DE LA INTELIGENCIA. PODER FUERZA PLANETARIA = EL VOLCAN EL CEREBRO, CONOCIEMIENTO, SABIDURIA, LLENO DE FUEGO PODEROSO. EL TERREMOTO HACER RUIDO, SACUDIR, BAMBALEAR, LA SINCRONISIDAD, LA MEMORIA, FUERTE, LLENO, ENCHIDO, PODEROSO	<ul> <li>AVERIGUAR EL DESTINO DE LAS PERSONAS PEDIR COMPRENSION DE LAS PERSONAS</li> <li>U DIA PARA PEDIR POR BUENA MEMORIA</li> <li>S PARA CONSULTARLE A DIOS POR MEDIO -</li> <li>A DE LA CEREMONIA MAYA, Q POR MEDIO -</li> <li>DEL TZITE O POR LAS SENALES DEL CUERPO DIA PARA FORMAR CONSEJO Y UNIR IDEAS.</li> <li>DIA PARA ESTUDIAR LA CIENCIA MAYA.</li> </ul>	EL MOVIEMIETNO DEL CIELO EL MOVIEMTO DE LA TIERRA EL CEREBRO ES EL TEMPLO DE DIOS LA CUEVA, LA CAVERNA CALENTAR FUEGO
GENTE CON BUENAS IDEAS Y GRAN TALENTO CREATIVO, JUICIOSOS, BUENOS Y JUSTOS, NO ACEPTAN FACILMENTE COSAS EXTRAÑAS GRANDES CURANDEROS Y MEDICOS SON MUY BUENOS ESTUDIANTES SON MUY PODEROSOS PERO DE GRAN CORAZON SON MUY TRADICIONALISTAS LES FALTA ASTUCIA PARA LOGRAR SUS OBJETIVOS. BUENOS EN TODAS LAS ARTES, SON COMERCIANTES Y NEGOCIANTES SON GENTE MUY PRUDENTE SON LOS GRANDES DEFENSORES SON GRANDES HUMANISTAS SOCIALES	PARA ATENDER Y OFRENDARLE A EL KABAWIL. DIA PARA IR A LOS TEMPLOS MAYAS. PEDIR COMPRENSION EN EL MATRIMONIO. RENDIR O PRESENTAR EXAMENES O TRABAJOS U RETIRAR ESPIRITUS DE LAS MALAS IDEAS. T PEDIR HABILIDAD EN EL JUEGO DE PELOTA. I TRANSFORMAR UNA SENTENCIA EN CASO - L DE INJUSTICIA. I DIA PARA CAMBIAR LAS MALAS COSTUMBRES. S PARA PEDIR VITALIDAD, FUERZA, CALOR, A Y MOVIMIETNO EN UN CUERPO ENFERMO. RETIRAR PERSONAS DE MALAS INTENCIONES. ESTAR EN ARMONIA CON DIOS. I DIA PARA ATENDER UNA SENTENCIA EN CASO - L DE INJUSTICIA. I DIA PARA CAMBIAR LAS MALAS COSTUMBRES. S PARA PEDIR VITALIDAD, FUERZA, CALOR, A Y MOVIMIETNO EN UN CUERPO ENFERMO. RETIRAR PERSONAS DE MALAS INTENCIONES. ESTAR EN ARMONIA CON DIOS. I DIA PARA PEDIR VITALIDAD, FUERZA, CALOR, A Y MOVIMIETNO EN UN CUERPO ENFERMO. RETIRAR PERSONAS DE MALAS INTENCIONES.	



Ver Significado

Día para acrecentar la memoria.

Día para pedir buenos consejos

#### Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes de Guatemala

### Three Representations of the *Cholq'ij* Nawal No'j | Wisdom

f lastragtas db Calandario Mago

No'j simboliza el movimiento del cielo y la tierra. No'j es la cueva o caverna, poder de la inteligencia o sabiduría. No'j también significa las ideas y pensamientos. No'j es un día propicio para pedir claridad en la toma de decisiones.

National Movement of Midwives Nim Alaxik, Facebook



NO'J

NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF MIDWIVES NIM ALAXIK

HOW IS THE CHOLQ'IJ REPRESENTED IN MAYA WOMEN'S NARRATIVES IN RELATION TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE, WORLD-VIEWS AND PHILOSOPHIES ONLINE?

"A MIDWIVE IS BORN NOT MADE."

MANY OF THEM COME FROM A LINEAGE OF MIDWIVES, OTHERS WERE BORN IN A DAY PROPITIOUS IN THE CHOLQ'IJ CALENDAR TO TAKE THIS MISSION.

A MAYA MIDWIFE DOES NOT RECEIVE A SALARY, THEY RECEIVE A DONATION FOR THEIR WORK. THIS CAN RANGE FROM A MONETARY CONTRIBUTION, TO ANIMALS OR PROVISIONS.

#### **'I LOVE MY WORK , I LOVE TO BE A MIDWIFE.'** VERÓNICA IXCOT



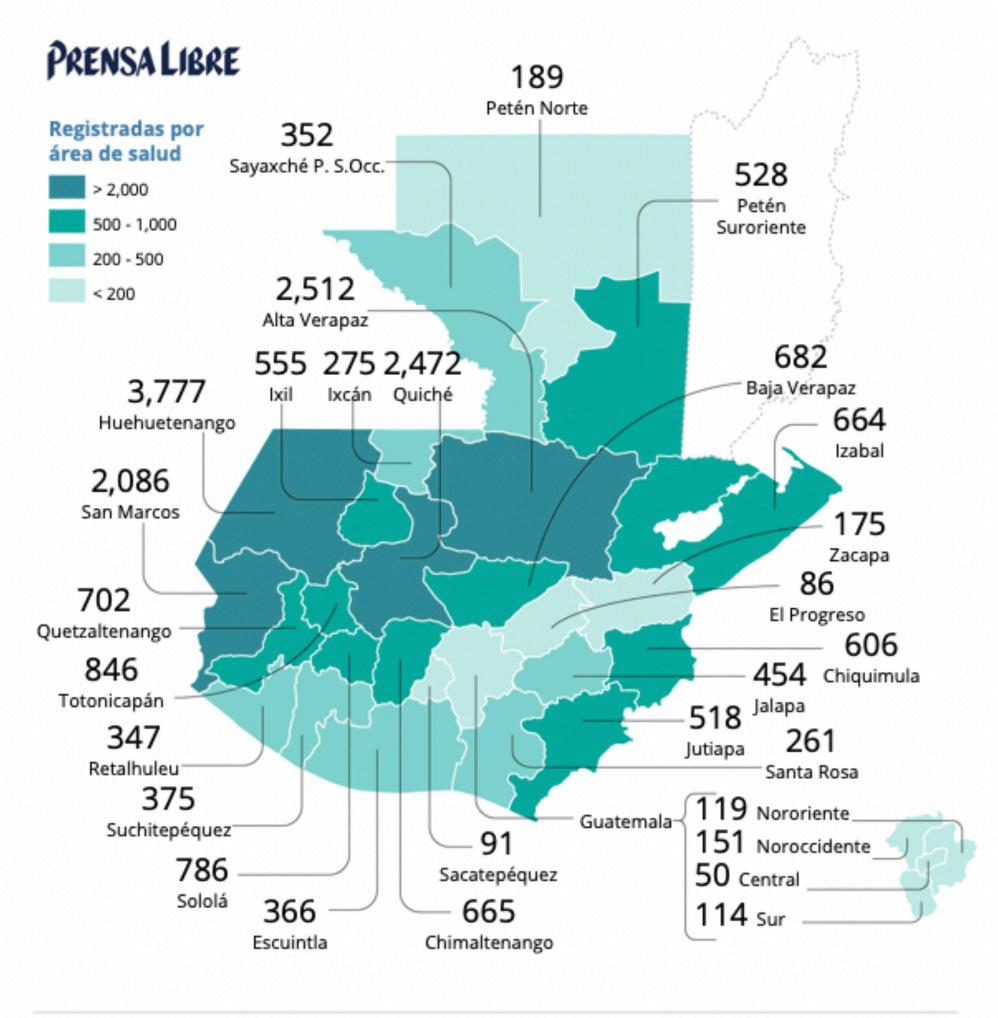
*Nim Alaxik*, 2021. National Day of the Grandmothers Midwives Facebook.

#### COVID-19 PANDEMIC HEALTH FROM THE COMMUNITY

- There are more than 20.000 indigenous midwives registered in the country (2021).
- They attend other health needs in the communities.
- Despite their work and silent effort, they are often discriminated and their traditional knowledge is not recognised.
- In 2015 the Midwives National Movement presented an appeal against the Health Ministry to end the racism, discrimination, physical and psychological violence, that they suffer at the hands of doctors and nurses in hospitals.

#### Salud desde la comunidad

Las comadronas están en donde el sistema de Salud Pública no llega. Más de 20 mil están registradas para atender a las mujeres en salud integral, pero su labor se extiende a toda la comunidad.



Infografía: Diego Sac

Fuente: Ministerio de Salud Pública

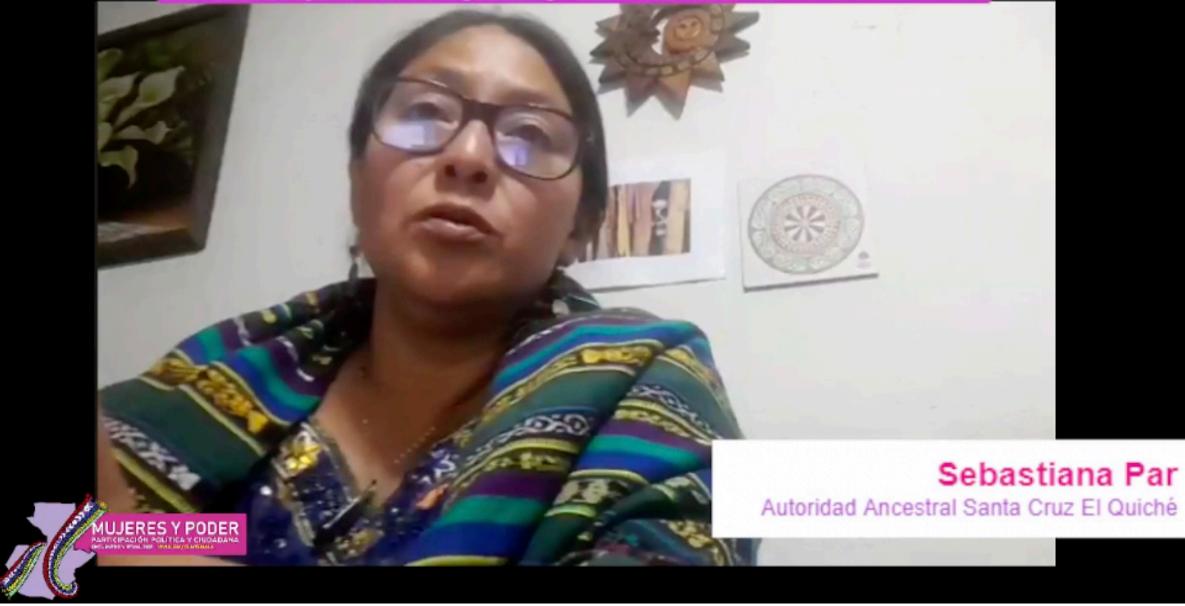
y Asistencia Social

Prensa Libre (2021) https://www.prensalibre.com/pl-plus/guatemala/comunitar<mark>io/ comadronas-las-abuelas-que-llegan-a-donde-la-salud-no-alcanza/</mark>

PRENSA LIBRE



Encuentro Mujeres y Poder | Cuarta Jornada | 06 de Oct 2021 Panel I: Participación de las Mujeres Mayas en el Sistema de Autoridades Ancestrales



*Chomija* Women Lawyers' Association, Facebook.

An Aj'quijab' performing a blessing for the success of the Encounter of Women and Power organised by the Association of Maya Lawyers Chomija. (Streamed via Facebook)







THE PROCESS OF CONVEYING THE *CHOLQ'IJ'S* ABSTRACT CONCEPTS IN A Contested Media, such as an online/virtual place, Certainly Implies a process of cultural surrender, Yet Paradoxically vital and empowering to maya culture.

# THANK YOU

<u>GM396@CANTERBURY.AC.UK</u>