

Restoration

OF NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN



International Partnerships at
United Nations Headquarters

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National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
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Restoration

OF NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN

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Lucy Simpson
Executive Director
NIWRC

"The spring of 2016 was a dynamic season for our national movement and a very busy one at NIWRC! The NIWRC Board and staff were honored to coordinate with the White House on the United State of Women Summit and the National Institute of Justice to inform tribal leaders and advocates of its new report on violence against women.

It was also exciting to assist in organizing a full-house performance of *Sliver of a Full Moon* at the National Museum of the American Indian. In this season, NIWRC also expanded its education role by coordinating two Congressional briefings, both filled to capacity. With these developments, and the gains of the last few months to create a dedicated tribal funding stream under the Victims of Crime Act, we recognize that even though we have a long road ahead, historic changes are happening on a daily basis."



Jacqueline "Jax" Agtuca
Editor
Restoration

"The exciting milestones toward creation of a tribal funding stream under the Victims of Crime Act are a reflection of an increased awareness and concern for the safety of Native

women. As we look toward the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention Act in 2017 and VAWA in 2018, now is the time for the national movement for the safety of Native women to examine the next set of reforms required to strengthen the sovereignty of Indian nations to protect Native women.

The groundswell we experienced in the struggle to win VAWA 2013 must be reignited and built upon. The stronger we are as a national movement the greater the potential is for real change in the daily lives of Native women. As Tillie Black Bear often said, "We must be ready to stand for the safety of Native women at any time and at any place."

Instructions on how to use the QR codes in this magazine

1. Using your smartphone, go to Google Play (for Androids) or App Store (for iPhones).
2. Search for the **QR Bot** app. Download and open on your phone.
3. The QR Bot app will use the camera on your phone to scan the code at right.
4. Open the website link it takes you to!





Cover: United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, 60th Session, March 22, 2016

Representatives from the Indian Law Resource Center, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, and the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women at the United Nations, Commission's 60th session in New York City. The delegation pressed for action to end violence against indigenous women and build support among states and UN actors. The team included (left to right): Terri Henry, Paula Julian, Jana Walker, Jacqueline "Jax" Agtuca, Christopher Foley, Karla General, and (center front) Tami Truett Jerue. To read more, see pages 30-34.

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National Task Force
to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence Against Women



National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

Dear Friends,

Since the establishment of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women in 2003, *Restoration* magazine has provided tribal leaders, advocates, and attendees with an update on emerging issues impacting the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women.

Since the February *Restoration* update, the important advances toward creation of a dedicated tribal funding under the Crime Victims Fund is exciting and refreshing. This proposed reform will address a long-standing historic inequity. It has the potential to remove a legal barrier denying tribal crime victims access to services provided under the Fund through tribal governments and on tribal lands. Currently, states and territories receive annual funding under the Fund, while Indian tribes do not. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the original legislation passed in 1984, does not include Indian tribes. As a result, Indian tribes receive less than 1% of the Crime Victims Fund. While collections under the Fund reached a high of \$2.8 billion in 2013, state governments passed through a mere 0.5% of the available funds to programs serving tribal crime victims from 2010-2014.

Over the last decade, the NCAI Task Force, tribal leaders, and the tribal grassroots movement have raised concerns that Indian tribes do not have the same access to the Crime Victims Fund as other governments. Tribal leaders consistently expressed these concerns during previous annual USDOJ VAWA consultations. In addition, NCAI passed a resolution in support of amending VOCA to create a dedicated Indian VOCA program during the Anchorage 2014 national conference. We encourage everyone concerned to follow and voice his or her opinion regarding the need for a dedicated tribal VOCA program. This *Restoration* provides highlights of this struggle on pages 11-13.

The NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women has worked for more than a decade to steadily increase the safety of Native women on a national level. As with each volume of *Restoration*, we hope this information assists you in understanding the many new developments in our efforts to increase the safety of Native women in the United States!

Co-Chairs, NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women



Juana Majel
Traditional Legislative
Counsel, Pauma Band of
Luiseno Mission Indians



Terri Henry
Former Chairwoman of
Council, Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians



Task Force on Violence Against Native Women

Monday, June 27, 2016

9 AM – 12 Noon

9:00 a.m. **Opening & Introductions**

NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women Co-Chairs:

Juana Majel-Dixon, Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians

Terri Henry, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

9:10 a.m. **Overview of *Restoration Magazine*: News and Emerging Issues**

Jacqueline "Jax" Agtuca, NIWRC Consultant

9:20 a.m. **Litigation Update**

Dollar General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw

US v. Bryant

Mary Kathryn Nagle, Pipestem Law, NIWRC Consultant

9:30 a.m. **Department of Justice Updates and 2016 VAWA Consultation**

Lorraine Edmo, Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs, OVW USDOJ (invited)

Gena Tyner-Dawson, Office of Justice Programs (invited)

10:30 a.m. **Policy Updates**

- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)**
- **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)**
- **Appropriations**
- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**
- **Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA)**
- **Discussion of reforms to law enforcement funding**
- **International Advocacy – *Jana Walker*, Indian Law Resource Center**
- **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women**

11:30 a.m. **Regional Updates**

NIWRC Calls for Support for Ashlynnne Mike's Family and a National Response to Missing and Murdered Native Women



Lame Deer, Montana – On May 5, 2016, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) released a statement to offer prayers and support to the family of Ashlynnne Mike. "The difficulty of this heartbreaking situation has required us to pause for prayer as parents, aunties, and grandmas," said Lucy Simpson, Executive Director of NIWRC. "The abrupt and violent taking of the innocent life of this Native Diné child is deeply felt by all of the NIWRC family."

Ashlynnne Mike, an 11-year-old girl on the Navajo Nation, was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and found dead. The suspect has been apprehended and federal authorities are conducting the criminal investigation.

"We are currently working to raise awareness and build momentum to address the pattern of missing and murdered Native women and girls in the United States such as the case of Ashlynnne Mike," stated Cherrah Giles, NIWRC Board President. "NIWRC encourages tribal communities to come together as relatives and offer prayers for Ashlynnne Mike's family and community."

The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW) in New Mexico organized community activities in support of Ashlynnne Mike's family. The Coalition held a community gathering at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, and accepted monetary donations and donated goods (such as non-perishable food, fabric, blankets, yarn, and items that are traditionally used in ceremonies and as give-away items that the family can use).

In addition, the Shiprock

Marathon, held May 7th, 2016, dedicated the run to Ashlynnne Mike with runners wearing Ashlynnne's favorite color yellow. The CSVANW and NIWRC staff participated in the marathon. "Our traditions teach us running in prayer brings strength to others. Three generations of my family ran in prayer for healing and comfort in Shiprock, NM. My life's work is directly impacted by this tragedy and all intentional harms to children, women, and families. May the Creator receive beautiful Ashlynnne," said Dorma Sahneyah, NIWRC Director of Training and Technical Assistance.

Please use #ForAshlynnne #JusticeforAshlynnne #iwillRUNforher to bring awareness to violence against Native women and children.

"Our deepest condolences from the NIWRC to the family of Ashlynnne Mike, our tribal communities, and our relatives," said Lucy Simpson.



May 5, 2016, NIWRC Communications Officer Princella RedCorn (left) and sister Ignacia Parker attend the Osage Nation candlelight vigil for Ashlynnne Mike. The group that gathered wore the color red and prayed for Ashlynnne's family, the Navajo Nation and all missing and murdered Indigenous women and children. (Photo courtesy of Geneva Horsechief-Hamilton, Osage Nation)

High Hopes for National Native Domestic Violence Hotline

Each tribe has their own language, culture, and government," said Leanne Guy, Executive Director of the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition. "Native women need a Native hotline because their lives and pathways to safety are rooted in their tribal nations."

For nearly 20 years, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) has been a vital link to safety for many affected by domestic violence. Its advocates respond to calls 24/7, 365 days a year. Over many years, NDVH has continued to grow and expand contact services to include online chat and texting. However, culturally appropriate services to American Indian and Alaska Native women and issues involving criminal jurisdiction on tribal lands present unique challenges.

"Native women seeking safety from abuse need the services of a national hotline that is designed and staffed with Native advocates to serve Native women within their tribal nations," said Dorma Sahneyah, NIWRC Director of Training and Technical Assistance. "Not having a national Native hotline to provide culturally appropriate services Native women need and deserve is a gap that impacts the safety of Native women."

"When you are in crisis, it is important to have the person on the other end of the phone understand the tribal justice system handling her criminal or civil case and cultural practices, beliefs, and language," said Guy. "Each tribe has a specific response system and knowledge of this system is essential in order to assist a caller."

NIWRC staff Lucy Simpson, Executive Director; Tang Cheam, Director of Technology; and Dorma Sahneyah are working with the NDVH to develop a planning process, establish timelines, develop infrastructure, build a tribal resource database, hire and train staff, and provide tribal community outreach.

In October 2014, the National Congress of American Indians passed during its Atlanta conference Resolution #ATL-14-028, which supports the creation of a NNDVH to be developed and run by Native advocates. "An integral part of insuring sustainable future funding for the Native Hotline is support for reauthorization of the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)," said Sahneyah. "Permanent funding for the NNDVH is a proposed amendment to FVPSA."

The National Native Domestic Violence Hotline (NNDVH), scheduled to begin taking calls in January 2017, will offer crisis intervention, safety planning assessments, and referrals to local resources tailored to Native women.

Standing Room Only at Congressional Briefing on the Implementation of VAWA 2013 Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction over Non-Indians



Washington, D.C.—More than 100 people accepted the invitation to attend the Congressional briefing on violence against women and implementation of VAWA 2013 Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction held February 23, 2016.

“VAWA was a major step but it was just the beginning to restoring to Indian tribes—sovereign nations—the authority to protect women,” said Congressman Xavier Becerra. “I want to thank those tribes who are implementing tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians committing domestic violence on tribal lands because we can now talk about real successes. Now we have cases of Native women who have had their rights defended.”

The 2013 VAWA affirmed tribes’ ability to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ) over non-Indian defendants within Indian country for domestic or dating violence against Native women, and violations of protection orders. The briefing provided updates on tribal implementation of this lifesaving legislation.

“Why was this provision needed?”

asked Terri Henry, the moderator of the briefing and the former Chairwoman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and current Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women. “Because the rates of violence perpetrated against Native women showed that 6 in 10 Native women will be

“We knew these offenses were occurring for many years and all we could do was drive the abuser to the edge of the reservation. We found that the non-Indian defendants had a long history of violence and were repeat offenders, some with criminal convictions and outstanding felony warrants.”

Alfred Urbina, Attorney General, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

victims of domestic violence. And 1 of 3 Native women will be raped in their lifetime, many of which are domestic-violence related.”

The briefing was cosponsored by the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, Indian Law Resource Center, and National

Congress of American Indians (NCAI). The honorary Congressional co-hosts were U.S. Representatives Louise M. Slaughter, Betty McCollum, Gwen Moore, and Xavier Becerra.

“But, when you look at national statistics for Native women, what is lost in translation is the complexity of the criminal justice system and understanding that these crimes

are perpetrated at the local level. In the case of Native women, these crimes are committed at the local, tribal level,” shared Ms. Henry.

“Our reality is that our tribal lands have become safe havens for perpetrators.”

As of January 1, 2016, eight tribes have implemented special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians under VAWA 2013. Together, the tribes have made 44 SDVCJ arrests, resulting in 18 guilty pleas, 5 referrals for federal



February 23, 2016, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.—The attendees of the Congressional briefing sharing thoughts on the remarks of speakers on implementation of VAWA 2013 tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians. Photos from left to right: Beverly Cook, Chief, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Carmen O'Leary, Director, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains. Beverly Cook. Tulalip tribal members Deborah Parker, Councilwoman Theresa Sheldon, and Vice Chairman Glen Gobin.

prosecution, 1 acquittal by jury, 12 dismissals, with 6 cases pending.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe began exercising SDVCJ on February 20, 2014, as part of the DOJ Pilot Project. Since implementing SDVCJ, the tribe has made 26 SDVCJ arrests involving 20 separate offenders, resulting in 6 guilty pleas, 4 referrals for federal prosecution, 1 acquittal by jury, and 10 dismissals. Pascua Yaqui reports that since it began

“Non-Indian offenders had the feeling they could do what they wanted to because there was no way they would be prosecuted. We could call county law enforcement but their response was very long or they would not come at all,” said Glen Gobin, Vice Chairman of the Tulalip Indian Tribes. “Now the tribe can prosecute non-Indian offenders but the jurisdiction is limited to certain crimes, it does

(CJS) appropriations bill, but the House did not. This year, we are very optimistic. We are hoping for your support over the coming months.”

“I want to thank all of you implementing the hard-fought legislation won under the Violence Against Women Act. You have learned from your cases prosecuting non-Indians. We knew that VAWA

“I am here to ask for your help to protect our children. The law today does not allow our tribe to charge crimes by non-Indians against children who are present or involved. We need the jurisdiction to protect our children.”

Theresa Sheldon, Councilwoman, Tulalip Tribes

implementing SDVCJ, cases involving non-Indians have made up 25% of the tribe’s domestic violence caseload.

“The 16 offenders investigated in the initial year accounted for 86 contacts with just Pascua Yaqui law enforcement before and after passage of VAWA 2013 and not counting state contacts. The offenders included African American, Asian, Hispanic, and Caucasian men and one woman,” said Oscar “OJ” Flores, Chief Prosecutor of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

The Tulalip Tribes began exercising SDVCJ on February 20, 2014, as part of the DOJ Pilot Project. As of February 1, 2016, the Tribes had 11 SDVCJ arrests involving 9 defendants, resulting in 6 guilty pleas, 1 federal guilty plea, 2 dismissals, and 2 cases pending. The defendants have had a combined number of 109 contacts with Tulalip Tribal Law Enforcement since 2008.

not protect victims of stranger rape, and does not protect children or other family members.”

In response to a question asking what members of Congress can do to help in the coming weeks, Virginia Davis of the NCAI responded, “The most critical support needed right now is tied to resources for Indian tribes to enhance their response and implement this lifesaving provision. Most significant is tribal access to the Crime Victims Fund, which is the main source of federal funding to crime victims. These funds do not currently reach tribal victims well because there is no dedicated funding stream for Indian tribes. This could be fixed in the appropriations process. Last year the Senate included money from the Crime Victims Fund in the Commerce, Justice, and Science



“We need to expand the jurisdiction over children, sexual assault, and other crimes connected to domestic violence.”
—Congresswoman Gwen Moore

needed to protect all women,” said Congresswoman Gwen Moore. “We need to expand the jurisdiction over children, sexual assault, and other crimes connected to domestic violence. Tribal women certainly should have the protection of their law enforcement and know they can live safely in their community.”

Update: Since the briefing, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee’s have approved FY 17 CJS Appropriations bills that include a 5% allocation for tribal governments from the Crime Victims Fund. Please see pg. 11 for a comprehensive update on this issue.

Resources from the Congressional Briefing: Impact of VAWA 2013 in Indian Tribes (February 2016)

Like 40 Tweet Pin it +

Congressional Briefing on February 23, 2016-

DebraLeow (13:46)

EXPLORE ONLINE:

Resources from the Congressional Briefing:
niwrc.org/news/resources-congressional-briefing-impact-vawa-2013-indian-tribes-february-2016



Congressional Briefing on the Latest Data Regarding Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men

More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime and more than 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence, according to the National Institute of Justice's new report. On June 16th, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, and the Indian Law Resource Center co-sponsored a Congressional briefing, to share information about the findings in the Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. The briefing was held in cooperation with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY).

The report finds more than 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced intimate partner violence and among those women, 90% experienced this violence at the hands of an interracial intimate partner. The report states that "among the American Indian and Alaska Native women who have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, almost all (96%) have experienced sexual violence by an interracial perpetrator."

"The report confirms what we see at the grassroots level every day," said Lucy Simpson, Executive Director of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. "Native women suffer terribly disproportionate rates of violence, and it is usually non-Native men who are committing these crimes. We need to make sure that our tribal governments have all the tools they need to respond to this epidemic of violence."

One Step Closer to Creation of a Dedicated Tribal Victims of Crime Act Program: House Appropriations Subcommittee Passes Honda Amendment



Rep. Mike Honda (left) and Rep. Tom Cole (right), champions of the tribal amendment directing 5% of the outlays from the Crime Victims Fund to tribal governments passed by the House Appropriations Subcommittee.

Currently, less than 7 cents per \$100 from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) goes to tribal programs, despite Congress tripling taxpayer dollars supporting that Fund. On February 24, Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) worked with Representative Tom Cole (R-OK) to pass an amendment to the House Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) appropriations bill for FY 2017 directing 5% of the Crime Victims Fund to tribal governments.

"I want to thank my colleagues, especially Mr. Cole, for supporting this amendment and for supporting our Native American families," said Rep. Honda. "The history of our nation is littered with a disgusting litany of abuse and injustice perpetrated by our government on Native Americans. Thankfully, we have begun to do better. We have begun making changes that recognize the challenges faced in Native communities, and potential solutions to them. Today, we have taken a first step toward one of

those solutions." This amendment was previously adopted by the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

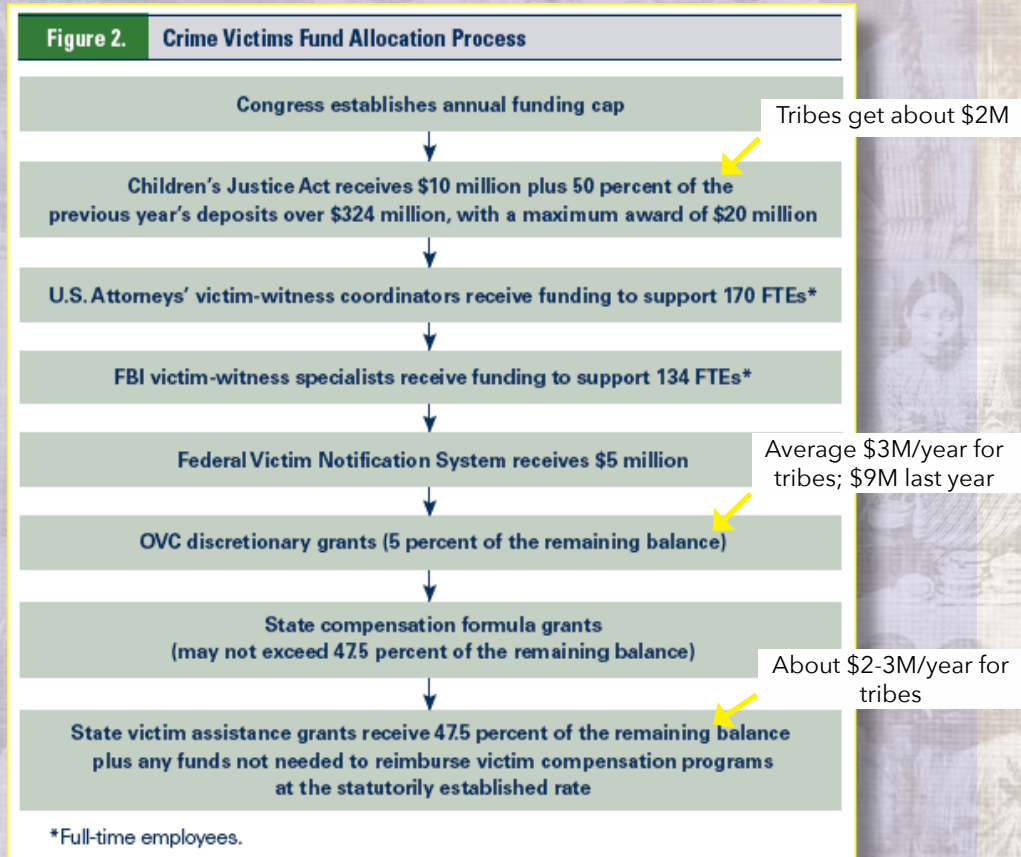
The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) strongly supported Congressman Honda's amendment, which will address a long-standing inequity that has left the most victimized population in the nation without access to the crime victim services and compensation that are taken for granted in much of the rest of the country.

"Rep. Honda's amendment will provide much-needed resources to crime victims on tribal lands and recognizes the important role tribal governments play in providing services to crime victims in their communities," said Brian Cladoosby, NCAI President.

"Not all crime victims are treated the same in this country when the population with the highest rates of crime victimization receives less than 1% of the federal Crime Victims Fund. The fact that states only passed through 0.5% of these dollars from 2010-2014 is why Indian tribes must have a separate funding stream."

**Terri Henry, Co-Chair
NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women**

Since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 1984, the federal government has provided significant support to crime victim services programs across the country. Unfortunately, as is too often the case, Indian country has largely



Crime Victims Fund Summary of Tribal Issues

- In FY15 and FY16, Congress significantly increased disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), which is the nation's primary funding source for crime victim services programs and compensation.
- Despite more than tripling disbursements to \$2.6 billion, Indian tribes, who experience the highest crime victimization rates in the country, continue to be left out of the programs funded by the CVF.
- A growing number of organizations and groups have recognized the need to increase the access of Indian tribes to the lifesaving VOCA funds including:
 - The bipartisan group of Senators who co-sponsored the SURVIVE Act
 - The bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives who supported inclusion of a tribal allocation in the FY 2017 CJS appropriations bills
 - National Task Force to End Violence Against Women
 - National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
 - American Bar Association
 - Attorney General's Task Force on American Indian Children Exposed to Violence
 - Office for Victims of Crime

For more information, please contact NCAI Senior Policy Advisor Virginia Davis at VDavis@NCAI.org

been left out of this effort. Crime victims on tribal lands still struggle to access even the most basic services. Over the past two years, Congress has more than tripled outlays from the Crime Victims Fund, which reflects Congress commitment to provide services to victims of crime. Unfortunately, tribes do not have the same access to the Crime Victims Fund as state and territorial governments, and none of these increases have been directed to tribal governments.

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN), and Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV) all spoke in strong support of the Honda amendment. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), and 31 other members of House of Representatives signed a letter requesting the members of the CJS Subcommittee address the long-standing disparities which leave tribal victims of crime without equal access to the assistance received by other victims in our country. The letter stated, "Since federally recognized tribes are autonomous sovereign governments, they should be able to access the CVF and protect victims of crime as can states and territories. We urge you to include language in the CJS appropriations bill to allow federally recognized tribal governments to receive direct CVF

disbursements and fully support efforts to implement SDVCJ."

Understanding the Crime Victims Fund

Congress created the CVF in 1984 based on the idea that money the government collects from criminals should be used to help those victimized by crime. Unfortunately, in 1984, policymakers were not thinking about the need to create a separate formula funding stream for Indian tribes, which is now recognized as the best way to support tribal governments and tribal programs. The inclusion of a tribal program under the CVF as within the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act as well as the Violence Against Women Act is long overdue given the significant progress in tribal and federal relations since 1984.

Despite significant increases in collections, Congress has imposed a cap on how much is available from the CVF for crime victim services and



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

May 23, 2016
The House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Requesting support for Rep. Honda's amendment to include funding for victim services on tribal lands in the CJS bill

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the nation's oldest and largest organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of an amendment that we expect will be offered by Congressman Honda to the CJS appropriations bill tomorrow. Cong. Honda's amendment will provide much needed resources to crime victims on tribal lands and recognizes the important role tribal governments play in providing services to crime victims in their communities.

American Indians and Alaska Natives experience the highest crime victimization rates in the country. A recent study conducted by the National Institute for Justice found that over 80% of American Indians will experience violence in their lifetimes. Studies have also found that Native children are exposed to levels of violence at astronomically high rates, and as a result, they experience rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that are triple the national average. When crime occurs, victims and survivors have a variety of needs that may include mental health counseling, appropriate medical care, support during criminal justice proceedings, and emergency financial and housing assistance. Complex jurisdictional issues, along with the cultural diversity of tribes and the basic reality of geography, pose a significant challenge for crime victims in need of services in Indian Country.

Since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 1984, the federal government has provided significant support to crime victim services programs across the country. As is unfortunately too often the case, Indian Country has largely been left out of this effort. Crime victims on tribal lands still struggle to access even the most basic services. Over the past two years, Congress has more than tripled outlays from the Crime Victims Fund, which reflects Congress's commitment to provide services to victims of crime. Unfortunately, tribes do not have the same access to the Crime Victims Fund as state and territorial governments, and none of these increases have been directed to tribal governments.

Congressman Honda's amendment would remedy this inequity by directing 5% of the outlays from the Crime Victims Fund to tribal governments. This funding will be a significant step toward finally ensuring that crime victims on tribal lands have equitable access to the life-saving services supported by the Crime Victims Fund. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me or NCAI Senior Policy Advisor Virginia Davis, vdavis@ncai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Brian Cladoosby, President

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compensation for the past 15 years. In recent years, distributions from the CVF have been about \$700 million. Collections, however, reached as high as \$2.8 billion in 2013, leaving a balance in the fund of over \$13 billion. There has been considerable pressure on Congress to make more of this money available for crime victims, and Congress significantly increased the distributions for FY 2015 to \$2.3 billion and increased them again to \$2.6 billion for FY 2016.

Unlike state and territorial governments, who receive an annual formula distribution from the CVF, Indian tribes are only able to access CVF funds via pass-through grants from the states or by competing

for very limited resources administered by the Department of Justice. According to DOJ, from 2010-2014, state governments passed through 0.5% of available funds to programs serving tribal victims—less than \$2.5 million annually nationwide. This leaves a significant unmet need in most tribal communities. In 2013—the year with the highest number of state subgrants to date—more than 60% of states with Indian tribes did not make any subgrants. Of the 16 states that did pass through money to tribal victim service programs, all but one passed through less than 5% of the states' available VOCA funds.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

CRIME VICTIMS FUND LETTER

March 23, 2016

Chairman John Culberson
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Mike Honda
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda:

As you prepare the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, we respectfully request you help address long-standing disparities which leave American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) victims of crime without equal access to the assistance provided by other entities in our country. Specifically, we request the CJS appropriations bill designate federally-recognized Indian tribes as direct recipients of annual distributions from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) and fully support efforts to implement tribal special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ).

The AIAN population experiences the highest crime victimization rates in the country. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, tribal members experience violent crimes at 2.5 times the national rate. In particular, native women face higher rates of domestic violence and abuse. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 39 percent of AIAN women experienced violence from an intimate partner during their lifetimes compared to 27 percent for white, non-Hispanic women. Even more troubling, the National Institute of Justice found that 34 percent of AIAN women were raped in their lifetime compared to an average of 18 percent for all American women.

It is important that the Department of Justice (DOJ) consult with federally-recognized tribes and make available direct annual distributions from the CVF. Unlike state and territorial governments, which receive a direct annual formula distribution from the CVF, tribes currently access the CVF via pass-through grants from the states or by competing for limited grant resources administered by the DOJ. According to the DOJ, from 2010-2014 state governments distributed an average of 0.5 percent of the available funds to programs serving tribal victims, accounting for less than \$2.5 million annually nationwide. This has left significant unmet needs in many tribal communities.

Furthermore, we believe it is important that efforts to protect AIAN women and men from domestic violence are fully supported. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013 allowed tribes to exercise SDVCJ and prosecute both Indians and non-Indians who assault AIAN spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners in Indian country. We respectfully request you to consider fully funding VAWA at its authorized amount to strengthen tribal criminal justice systems, provide indigent defense counsel, develop appropriate jury pools, and assist victims.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Since federally-recognized tribes are autonomous sovereign governments, they should be able to access the CVF and protect victims of crime as can states and territories. We urge you to include language in the CJS appropriations bill to allow federally-recognized tribal governments to receive direct CVF disbursements and to fully support efforts to implement SDVCJ. Thank you for your leadership in this critical area and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Darrell E. Issa
Member of Congress


Tanya Duckworth
Member of Congress


John K. Zinke
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Dan Kildee
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Gregg Harper
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

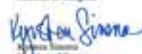

Stephen Knight
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Paul Cook
Member of Congress


Bill Ruckelshaus
Member of Congress


Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Kristina Sizemore
Member of Congress


Dan Claitor
Member of Congress


Mark Amodeo
Member of Congress


Charles H. Wicks
Member of Congress


Steve Largent
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress


Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Bob Latta
Member of Congress


Corine Brown
Member of Congress


Todd E. Blaine
Member of Congress


Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress


Robert C. Gibbs
Member of Congress


Paul M. Blitzer
Member of Congress


Daniel J. Trott
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

NIWRC makes a splash for Women's History Month in 2016

NIWRC's Communication Officer, Princella RedCorn, interviewed with Deborah Reger on her radio broadcast show "Moccasin Tracks" from WRUV, an FM community radio in Burlington, Vermont. They discussed NIWRC's Women's History Month initiatives, including a youth and adult social media campaign nominating inspiring Native women and girls from tribal communities, in honor of the sacredness of Native women and ancestral grandmothers. NativeLove, NIWRC's youth program, hosted a "Young Native Women Making History" photograph album on its Facebook page.

first Native woman, Dr. Susan Picotte, from the Omaha Nation to graduate with a medical degree in 1889 and three modern Native healers following in her footsteps.

In addition to the podcast interview, NIWRC shared videos, updates, and a free downloadable curriculum for the Native Daughters-Oklahoma journalism project, which profiles Native American women and girls from Oklahoma. The curriculum guide is available for free to teachers, with the hope that public schools will purchase the Native Daughters magazine to teach their students about the experiences of Native American women.

These nominations were added to the NIWRC's "Inspiring Native Women" Facebook album, which profiles more than 66 Native indigenous women with descriptions of how they're contributing to their communities, and which "Moccasin Tracks" read on air throughout the month of March. The "Inspiring Native Women" photograph



album was created on the main NIWRC Facebook page to share stories of historic Native women who bring healing, positive change, and sovereignty to Native nations, in hopes of honoring their legacies, inspiring others, and celebrating their leadership.

RedCorn and Reger also discussed an overview of the work being done by NIWRC on the policy level and implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). RedCorn suggested listeners subscribe to or download the digital issue of *Restoration Magazine* to become more informed on the issues and share with their tribal leaders. RedCorn also talked about her upcoming documentary "Medicine Woman" for which she served as producer/director/researcher. "Medicine Woman," which will broadcast on PBS Plus nationwide this November for Native Heritage Month, is about the



EXPLORE ONLINE:

Listen, share or download the interview podcast here (begins at 5:55)

http://moccasintracks.podomatic.com/entry/2016-03-17T11_36_54-07_00

Native Daughters-Oklahoma project

niwrc.org/news/niwrc-features-native-daughters-oklahoma-2016-women-s-history-month



New Report: Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey



“We can’t say for sure [that these estimates are low], but I think that’s a reasonable hypothesis, though this survey is probably more accurate [than some others] because it asked behaviorally specific questions [using words such as punched, kicked, or slapped] rather than questions about specific crimes [assault, for example].”

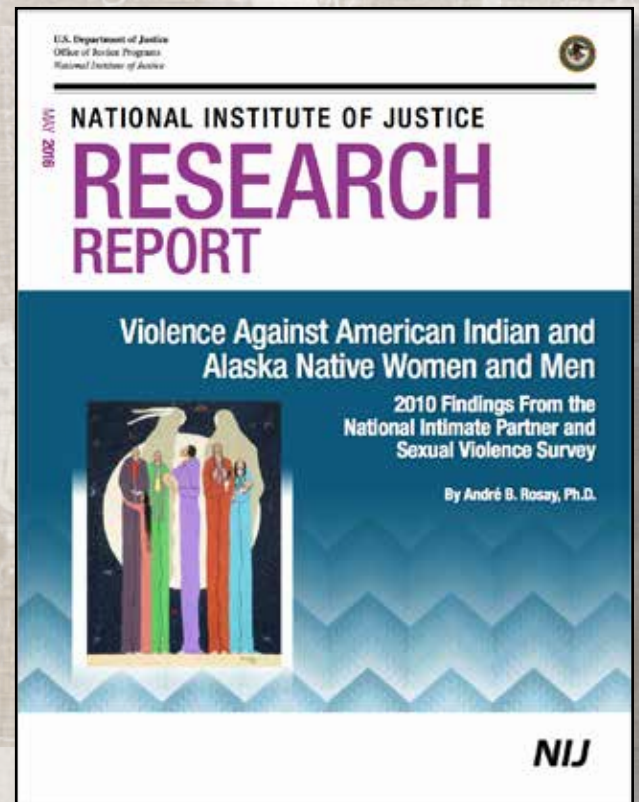
André B. Rosay, Director of the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center

On May 5, 2016, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) published its latest research report examining the prevalence of intimate partner and sexual violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men. NIJ published the report written by Dr. Andre B. Rosay in May 2016.

Using a large nationally representative sample from the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, the report provides estimates of sexual violence, physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and psychological aggression by intimate partners. It also provides estimates of interracial and intraracial victimizations and it briefly examines the impact of violence. Results are expected to raise awareness and understanding about violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men.

VAWA 2013 authorizes Indian tribes to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction within Indian country over certain non-Indian defendants. This report increases awareness about American Indian victimization to inform policies and practices surrounding implementation of VAWA 2013 special domestic violence jurisdiction over non-Indians. In addition, the report highlights a critical need for further measures to intensify and strengthen the response to violence against American Indian women, and particularly Alaska Native women.

NIJ is organizing several dissemination activities around the report’s release that includes a number of different audiences. “The National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center hosted a webinar and Congressional Hill Briefing to assist in providing the information to the tribal leaders, the public, and national policy makers,” said Lucy Simpson, Executive Director of NIWRC. “We want to ensure that the information is available to all tribal stakeholders.”



Key findings from the report:

- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. This includes:
- 56.1% who have experienced sexual violence
 - 55.5% who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner
 - 90% of women who have experienced sexual violence by an interracial intimate partner perpetrator

NATIVE *Love* Awareness Campaign: A Verizon-NIWRC Partnership

In 2015 Verizon partnered with NIWRC to launch the NativeLove awareness campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness of domestic violence by encouraging and empowering Native youth to redefine "Native love." Through NIWRC's extensive outreach at Native community events and gatherings, we have heard from Native youth who shared their experiences with bullying, dating violence, suicide, verbal and emotional abuse among peers, family violence, and racism. We have also heard from adult educators, mentors, parents, advocates, and community members supporting the NativeLove campaign. NativeLove is fueled by prayers in action and encouragement to think about creating change through traditional ways of loving. It is a project people get excited about!



EXPLORE ONLINE:

Celebration highlights with videos & photos!

niwrc.org/news/nativelove-2016-challenge-winners-celebration

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians welcomes NativeLove to help celebrate national NativeLove Challenge youth winner Kristen Butcher

Thermal, CA—On the evening of Wednesday, February 17, 2016, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) celebrated the Native Love youth winner Kristen Butcher in her community at the Cahuilla Tribal Center on the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Nation.

"It's not every day a national organization comes to our community," Faith Morreo, Kristen's mother, said. "We wanted to do this right for my daughter." Morreo, members of the Cahuilla Tribal Council, and the Elders Council welcomed NIWRC staff with introductions to community members to the celebration of her daughter.

The smell of pizza permeated the community room along with a chocolate strawberry sheet cake, drinks, and NativeLove-inspired decorations on the walls and tables. Many Cahuilla leaders, community members, men, elders, youth, families, as well as members of Kristen Butcher's family were in attendance for a total of about 50 throughout the evening.

A traditional prayer by Cahuilla Elder

Tribal Council member and community elder, Christina Morreo, opened the space followed by a Cahuilla song and dance. The Torres Martinez Bird Singers, led by Derek Duro, shook rattles and sang songs of celebration, while Kristen Butcher along with women and youth in the community danced along. NIWRC staff and NIWRC Board Treasurer Wendy Schlater also participated in a dance.

Schlater (representing the Southwest region of NIWRC) brought her mother to the celebration and introduced the overall organization goals of NIWRC as a resource center serving tribal coalitions and programs to end violence in our communities to the crowd. "We want to challenge the stereotypes of what Native love is. What we often hear as a joke is Native love is a hickey and a black eye. We want to present the opportunity for tribal people to define what Native Love is and give them a means for their voice to be heard." Rebecca Balog, NativeLove representative, thanked the community and congratulated Kristen Butcher for winning the NativeLove challenge. "Kristen's winning message really represented exactly what NativeLove is about," Balog said, "Because of Kristen's impressive leadership activities in her own community, the NIWRC would like to name her as our first NativeLove Youth Ambassador. The ambassador will represent NativeLove in

her community and to the nation at large with future duties to be announced."

Balog presented Butcher with a custom-made beaded medallion necklace with "Native Love" on it. Butcher got tears in her eyes standing next to her mother and grandmother. She addressed the community: "I want to do good things, I learned how to do good things from my mother and grandmother."

The NIWRC staff, as the NativeLove team, initiated a conversation with the community about healthy relationships in their community in recognition of February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Elders shared their experiences about learning about love from the generation before them; how it was difficult for their parents to accept love by means of hugs and learning how to say or hear "I love you" aloud with restraint, most likely stemming from boarding school experiences. The actual word for love in Indian, in this community and many other tribal languages, did not directly translate. This a recent phenomenon, as traditionally, there was no word for love in the Cahuilla language, explaining it as an Anglo tradition.

The rest of the celebration included a community-building exercise from infant to elder, a basketball challenge and NativeLove T-shirt giveaway, and many red road/red carpet photography moments where community members wrote and held a sign of what NativeLove means to them. In the NativeLove Challenge of 2015, youth posted photos and videos of themselves holding signs or sharing what Native love meant to them. Kristen received the most social media votes during the 2015 challenge.



NATIVE LOVE 2016

by Kristen Butcher

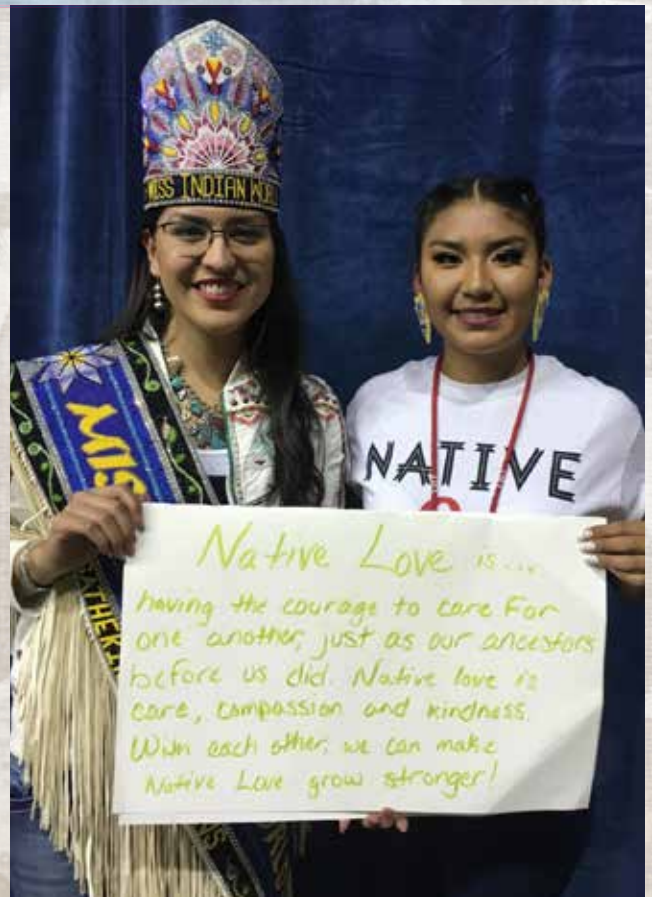
The First NativeLove Youth Ambassador

As the winner of the NativeLove challenge, I was able to attend the 2016 Denver March Powwow, held at the Denver Coliseum on March 25–27, as the first NativeLove Youth Ambassador. It was such a memorable experience of which I hope to have many more. I am fairly new to the ambassadorship, but with time I will be able to show people the remarkable, honorable purpose of the NativeLove message by traveling to various events and tribal communities!

The NativeLove organization deals with the topic of healthy relationships for Native people and was created to end domestic violence for our young people. It also encourages the positive aspects of what Native love means to our generations young and elder. To me, it means “to learn and respect other people’s cultures, as well as your own and to be proud to be indigenous.” You also must love your family, for they are the ones who give you the most support and teach you the good ways of life. My hope for this organization is to see more youth get involved and spread awareness of domestic violence and understanding healthy relationships. To me, a healthy relationship means to have trust in one another and give support to one another—not have one person dominate the relationship. There should also be good communication and absolutely NO violence or harassment in any way! This is something I hope to share with other youth and hopefully motivate them to spread this idea.

At the Denver Powwow, I had the opportunity to meet with Miss Indian World, Cheyenne Brady. I got to know many things about Cheyenne and her experience as Miss Indian World. We made a short video interview with her, which was a first-time experience for me. She shared her definition of Native love as “having the courage to care for one another, just as our ancestors before us did. Native love is care, compassion, and kindness with each other. We can make Native love grow stronger.” Her statement has inspired me and is something I would have talked about as well. Another young leader I met at the Denver Powwow was Miss Denver March 2016, Makayla Sage. I also asked if she would agree to share what Native love meant to her. She wrote, “Native love is praying through hard times together, and accepting each other’s ways (tribal traditions) without question.” This is also an inspiring quote that I too hope to fulfill.

I hope to get more people to learn about and support this organization. I am excited to meet more tribal youth and leaders. I know that this is going to be a new and great experience for me, as well as a challenge. It will have a huge impact on developing my future leadership skills. I hope to inspire and motivate youth to do greater things in life than what people might negatively influence them to do. Things such as drug and alcohol abuse, and violence are paths I don’t want the



March 2016 Denver Powwow—Kristen Butcher, First NativeLove Ambassador, and Cheyenne Brady, Miss Indian World, meet to share experiences and film a video on NativeLove.

EXPLORE ONLINE:

Video Interview

<https://youtu.be/iFhyj5SgcS8>



future generations to take. There are better things for youth to do with their lives. I thank NIWRC and the NativeLove team for this opportunity, and I hope to fulfill my goal as the NativeLove Youth Ambassador. Alowah! (Thank you, blessings)

NATIVE Love



A Mother's View by Faith Morreo

As a mother of two—my son, Brandon, age 19, and daughter, Kristen, age 16—it is a blessing to watch your young children grow into their own persons. I had blessed moments witnessing both of my children become such special human beings, ready and willing to contribute their gifts and talents to the world. My son is a musician, up-and-coming producer, and full-time college student. My daughter has a natural love for dance and expression.

Kristen was given a wonderful opportunity to support the NativeLove project. She recently celebrated her 16th birthday and is a sophomore at Coachella Valley High School in Coachella, CA. A member of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Nation, she proudly acknowledges her Lakota Sioux heritage. Her given name is Tasina Ska-Win, "White Shawl Woman," a name given to her by her late Unci, Goldie Iron Hawk. Kristen has kept busy in school by focusing on her studies, participating in the school drill team and swim team, and empowering young women through leadership. She is the elected Tribal Youth Council Secretary and was recently crowned royalty, Miss Sukutt Menyil, representing her Desert Cahuilla Nation.

We are so humbled by the opportunities she's been given. She hopes to share all of her experiences and encourage other youth to take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities and reach for the stars to accomplish their dreams. As a family, we continue to support Kristen and all tribal youth in becoming our future leaders. We will do as much as possible to see all our tribal communities thrive and strengthen healthy relationships. Many thanks to the NIWRC for its support in helping Kristen become part of the next generation of tribal leaders!

NativeLove screens videos at the Vision Maker Film Festival

March 11-13, 2016, NativeLove came to Lincoln, Nebraska, to screen Native Love videos at the Sixth Biennial Vision Maker Film Festival. The festival showcased works by Native filmmakers with more than a dozen guest speakers involved with the showcased films.

"It takes a warrior spirit to become a healer in Native America. And for seven generations, most of those healers have been women. Unfortunately, violence against Native women has reached epidemic proportions. This is why we chose to share programming that centered on women warriors on the opening night of the festival," said Shirley Sneve, Executive Director for Vision Maker Media. "With NIWRC's help, we were able to offer new ways of thinking about healing and offer resources that could help our Native community."



Pictured from left to right: Jordan Dresser (Arapaho) film producer of "What Was Ours," says Native Love is "Universal"; Georgianna Lee (Diné), Assistant Director of Vision Maker Media and first-time mother, says Native Love is "Baby Boy!"; and Boots Kennedy (Kiowa), documentary producer at Vision Maker Media, says Native Love is "Laughter".



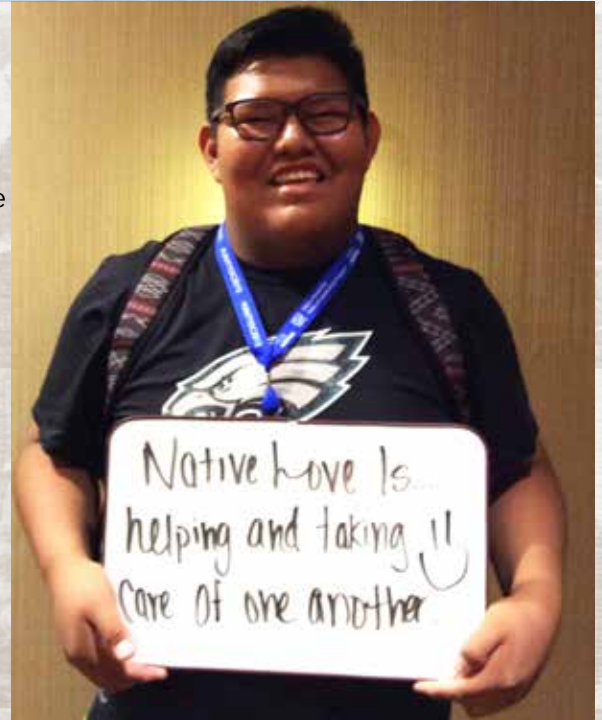
Native American actor Zahn McClarnon (Hunkpapa Lakota) holds up a sign saying "Native Love is Respect" at the NativeLove booth during the Vision Maker Film Festival.

In the new film "Mekko" by Native filmmaker Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Muscogee), McClarnon plays the character "Bill" in the film.

Updates on the NativeLove Challenge Winners 2016

Congratulations to one of our NativeLoves Challenge Winners, Eric Woody (Navajo) for the United National Indian Tribal Youth, 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders Award!

Indian Country Today released an article listing the "25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders" award winners, Eric Woody (Navajo) being one of them! Read more at <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/05/19/unity-announces-25-under-25-native-youth-leaders-2016-164538>. The United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) has announced its second class of "25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders" honoring Native American and Alaska Native youth. The program, which launched in 2014, celebrates the achievements of Native youth leaders under the age of 25 who embody UNITY's core mission of living a balanced life while developing their spiritual, mental, physical, and social well-being.



Eric Woody's winning challenge photo (at the 2015 UNITY Conference) reads "#NativeLoves helping and taking care of one another :)"



was to Washington, DC, where he got to explore the nation's capitol with his mother. He was also able to meet and have lunch with Joshua Marshall, a project consultant and policy advisor at Tribal Tech, LLC, and visit the White House (Hello Obamas!) and the Washington Monument.

NativeLove Challenge Winner (Video) Mark Renville and his mother Lynette Renville visited Washington, DC!

Renville's prize-winning travel location

**What does Native love mean to you?
Tell us what you think Native love is using
#NativeLoves on social media!**

Be sure to explore our website for youth toolkits, educator resources and much more:

<http://nativelove.niwrc.org>



NATIVE Love Challenge Winners 2016!

Top Winner is Kristen Butcher from Cahulla Nation!
Kristen is Lakota of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe & an enrolled member of the Teres Martnez Desert Cahulla Nation in Thermal, California.

"She serves on her Tribe's Youth Council of Teres Martnez. Kristen is a champion teen single-dress dancer as well and believes in keeping her traditions and culture alive! She is learning to speak fluent Desert Cahulla, as taught by her grandmother Christine Martnez. She also is a champion teen first dancer of her region in Southern California. We are so pleased to hear the great news that she won the NativeLove Challenge!"
-Faith Martnez, Kristen's mother

Willie BullBear (Lakota) Video Winner

Eric Woody (Navajo) Photo Winner

Nicole Lucero (Navajo) Photo Winner

Mark Renville, (Lakota) Photo Winner

NIWRC

White House: United State of Women Summit

As this edition of *Restoration* goes to print, the national movement is in motion preparing for the White House United State of Women Summit. The summit agenda is designed to address six key gender

equality issues, including economic empowerment, health and wellness, educational opportunity, violence against women, entrepreneurship and innovation, and leadership and civic engagement. The goal of the summit is to rally together the national movement to celebrate its achievements and determine how it will take action to continue moving forward.

Terri Henry, Co-Chair of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women, served as the lead coordinator for the tribal

program components and attendance. "We are excited and hopeful the summit will provide the opportunity for tribal leadership, advocates, and practitioners to further develop the relationship of Native women to other women in the United States. More than 60 tribal participants will attend the summit from across the United States, including the lower 48 and Alaska."

The summit will be an important moment for both women and girls, domestically and internationally, and will feature speakers who will both educate and inspire. American Indian and Alaska Native speakers are included throughout the summit agenda and post-summit events. Honorable Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe, will provide one of the opening Ignite plenaries on tribal sovereignty.

Tribal speakers for the Criminal Justice Reform in American Indian Nations and Alaska Native Villages include Honorable Melissa L. Pope, Chief Judge, Nottawaseppi Band of Huron Indians; Mary Kathryn Nagle, Partner, Pipestem Law; Tami Jerue, Executive Director of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center; and Michelle Demmert, Chief Judge Tlingit-Haida Court.

Tribal speakers for the Protections for the Next Generation of Native Youth include Honorable Theresa Pouley, Judge, Colville Tribal Court and Commissioner, Indian Law and Order Commission; Cherrah Giles, Board President of NIWRC and former Secretary, Dept. of Community and Human Services, Muscogee Creek Nation; and Nicole

Matthews, Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition.

Tribal speakers for the Indigenous Lifeways: A Key to Personal Economy and Safety include Deborah Parker,



THE UNITED STATE OF WOMEN
THE WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT

JUNE 14TH
2016

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theunitedstateofwomen.org

WHERE
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC

WHEN
Monday, May 23 2016

WITH COOPERATION FROM
FOUNDAION 10,000 WOMEN TONY BURCH FOUNDATION

Former Vice Chair, Tulalip Tribe; Victoria Hykes Steere, Professor, Alaska Pacific University; and Gay Kingman, Executive Director, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

During the closing panel, Honorable Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge, Yurok Tribe, Co-Chair California Tribal Court/State Court Forum and Board President, Tribal Law and Policy Institute, will speak. On Tuesday evening, *Sliver of a Full Moon* will be performed at the National Museum of the American Indian as the key cultural component of the summit events.

"It will be an important moment in the history of the national movement for the safety of Native women and all the women of this nation," said Lucy Simpson, Executive Director of the NIWRC.



TODAY WE'LL
CHANGE TOMORROW.

I WILL USE MY VOICE TO
STAND UP FOR MY
COMMUNITY.

Sexual Assault Awareness at the Academy Awards



Musical artist Lady Gaga stands with 50 survivors of sexual assault on stage at the 88th Academy Awards after her performance of "Til It Happens to You", from the documentary The Hunting Ground. (Screen grab from SeeActStop.org)

On Sunday, February 28, 2016, the 88th Academy Awards, at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood, California, presented a musical performance of "Til It Happens to You" by artist Lady Gaga. The song was a 2015 Oscar nominee for the Music (Original Song) category, with music and lyric by Diane Warren and Lady Gaga (both survivors of sexual assault). This was the first Academy Award nomination for Lady Gaga.

The song was featured in *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary about college campus rape that has made a name among the sexual assault community. "With studies indicating that 16-20% of women are sexually assaulted while attending college in the United States, more and more survivors are speaking about their experiences. As colleges strive to protect their brands and financial stability, assault victims often experience

cover-ups by campus officials and police, but survivors continue to pursue their education and fight for changes in campus policies" (www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com). Although the Oscar went to *Spectre's* "Writing's on the Wall" that night, Lady Gaga's live performance of "Til It Happens to You" at the awards ceremony stole the show. As Lady Gaga gave a soulful performance on piano, over 50 survivors of sexual assault appeared on stage to help her finish the song. The survivors on stage had written on their arms "Not Your Fault," and helped raise public awareness of sexual assault.

See Act Stop and No More partnered with *The Hunting Ground* film, promoting the Lady Gaga awards show performance and offering sexual assault resources for audience members. Explore No More's resources at: <http://nomore.org/toolbox/>

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center 2013-2016



Yup'ik Women's Coalition member Alexandra Waska (left) and Kotzebue Elder Mary Anne Wilson (right) look forward to the next session of the Nana Regional meeting.

Background

Since 2011, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) has worked closely with a group of long-time village-based Alaska Native advocates to address the unique challenges Alaska tribes face addressing violence against women, including active participation in the annual government-to-government consultation mandated by the Violence Against Women Act 2005.

This partnership has focused on discussing current services, injustices, and recommendations for addressing Alaska tribal governments' needs and advocating for increased victim safety and offender accountability. In the Spring of 2013, the Office on

Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Dept. of Justice, released their Technical Assistance (TA) Program solicitation, which included the following purpose area that OVW was interested in funding: "Develop and implement culturally specific training and technical assistance addressing the unique challenges that Alaska Native villages experience when addressing and responding to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking."

As a result of more than 15 years of advocacy by Alaska Native advocates and tribes for the need for technical assistance and training that was designed by and for Alaska Natives addressing violence against women, OVW included this purpose area in their TA solicitation. This is the only instance—since OVW opened its doors in 1995—in which OVW solicits TA to address the needs of one state/region. Most, if not all, of the TA that OVW has funded has been national in scope, so tribes and advocates changed the way that OVW and the

federal government conduct business.

October 2013 Launch of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center Project

In May 2013, in partnership with these advocates, NIWRC applied for and subsequently received in October 2013, a technical assistance grant from the OVW to develop the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and

develop and provide technical assistance and training to meet the unique needs of Alaska Native tribal governments addressing violence against women.

Over the last 4.5 years, through this partnership and our joint advocacy efforts, we have accomplished much change, including but not limited to the following, and are committed to continuing long-term organizing efforts:

1) Developed an Alaska Native Women's Resource Center as a central point of contact nationally on domestic violence and violence against women issues.

2) Developed a community engagement video curriculum rooted in Yup'ik, Athabascan, Tlingit, and Inupiaq voices, languages, and teachings to support the development of local village-based responses to domestic violence and violence against women. Ongoing funding will support continued development of the curriculum to cover all Alaska Native peoples.

3) Organized and conducted four community engagement sessions in the Villages of Emmonak (April 2015), Kake (April 2015), Anvik (May 2015), and Kotzebue (April 2016) using the curriculum. Over 27 villages participated in these four sessions.

4) Outreached to Alaska tribes informing them of laws, policies, and available resources addressing violence against women, including the significance of repealing Section 910 in VAWA 2013 and securing historic participation in the annual VAWA Consultation by the largest number of tribes from any region of the United States—11 Alaska tribes provided oral testimony at the annual USDOJ VAWA Consultation held November 2015, and at least 13 tribes provided written testimony by January 2016.

5) Participated at annual conventions of the Alaska Federation of Natives since 2013 and supported the passage of historic resolutions addressing these crimes calling for specific actions by tribes and state and federal governments.

6) Presented at various events across the country to increase awareness of the challenges faced by Alaska tribes addressing violence against women, including, but not limited to:

- Domestic Violence Resource Network Meeting, July 2013
- Unity Mtg. to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women, October 2013
- NIWRC Native Women's Leadership Institute II: A Strategic Discussion on a National Platform to Increase the Safety of Native Women and Sovereignty of Indian Tribes, April 2014

- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: Alaska Native Women's Community Conversation on Child Protection and Custody in the Context of Domestic Violence, May 2015
- Women Are Sacred Conference, June 2015
- NIWRC Leadership Institute for Tribal Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coalitions: Women of Resistance...Moving in Solidarity to End Violence Against Women, September 2015
- National American Indian Court Judges Association Annual Conference, October 2015
- OVW Tribal Government Program Grantees Orientation, February 2016
- National Congress of American Indians Task Force, 2011-2016

7) Expressed concerns to the OVW regarding the State of Alaska's lack of consultation and coordination with Alaska tribal governments in the development of their STOP Violence Against Women Grant three-year implementation plan as required by VAWA 2013.

8) Increased awareness of the challenges faced by Alaska tribes addressing violence against women with the United Nations (UN) through a partnership with the Indian Law Resource Center by participating at UN sessions including but not limited to the Commission on the Status of Women and World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, as well as inclusion of voices of survivors and advocates in the play *Sliver of a Full Moon* documenting the grassroots movement that restored the authority of Indian tribes over non-Indian abusers to protect women on tribal lands, or Section 904, Title IX of VAWA 2013.



Alaska Native Women's Resource Center Project Committee members:

WESTERN REGION - Yup'ik

- Joann Horn (Yup'ik speaker), Emmonak Women's Shelter in the Village of Emmonak
 - Lynn Hootch (Yup'ik speaker), Yup'ik Women's Coalition
 - Priscilla Kameroff (Yup'ik speaker), Yup'ik Women's Coalition

INTERIOR REGION - Athabascan

- Nettie Warbelow (Native speaker), Village of Tetlin
- Tamra "Tami" Truett Jerue (Native speaker), Village of Anvik

SOUTHEAST REGION - Tlingit

- Candy Keown, Tlingit - Hoonah Indian Association
- Dawn Jackson, Tlingit - Organized Village of Kake
 - Isabel Mills, Tlingit - Organized Village of Kake
 - Heidi Vantrease, Tlingit - Organized Village of Kake
- Michelle Demmert, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes

NORTHERN REGION - Inupiaq

- Clarice Akootchook (Native speaker), Inupiaq - Village of Kaktovik
 - Shirley Moses (Native speaker), Inupiaq
 - Tia Holley, Inupiaq
 - Roberta Moto, Inupiaq - Maniilaq Association
 - Shylena Monroe, Inupiaq - Maniilaq Family Crisis Center
- Aucha Kameroff, Yup'ik - Division of Juvenile Justice, Kotzebue District



Members of the Nana Regional planning committee Tasha Rita Bird (left) and Aucha Kameroff (center) sharing how the curriculum is indigenous to Alaska Native peoples based on their voices, teachings, and languages.

For more information, please contact:

Tami Jerue, Director, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center
tamijerue59@gmail.com

Paula Julian, NIWRC Program Specialist
pjulian@niwrc.org, 760-703-2784

Kotzebue Regional

Developing an Indigenous Curriculum: Kotzebue, Nana Regional

"We have had so many deaths here, and we are just quiet about it. It's time not to be quiet. It's time to say things," said Aucha Kameroff, Kotzebue District Supervisor, State of Alaska, Division of Juvenile Justice. "Enough is enough. We have to stop it."

On April 19, 2016, over 50 villagers from 11 Inupiaq Villages in the northwest arctic borough gathered together for the first Nana Regional training on violence against Inupiaq women. On that day, the ice-covered Kotzebue Sound next to the Nullagvik Hotel provided a calm view from the meeting room where the villagers discussed hard issues. It was a coming together, a sharing of thoughts and understandings of domestic violence as Inupiaq peoples.

"This curriculum was one of the first projects of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC). We worked on it the last two years and when it came time to test it, the villages of Emmonak, Anvik, and Kake all invited us to come to their villages. This training in Kotzebue is the fourth time we are testing the curriculum," said Tami Jerue, Director of the AKNWRC.

The Alaska Native domestic violence curriculum is the first indigenous curriculum specifically funded by the Office on Violence Against Women for Alaska Native villages. "I have been involved in this work for over 30 years. We began in the late '70s, and in my heart I always wanted an Alaska Native curriculum based on our lives and our needs," said Lynn Hootch, Director of Yup'ik Women's Coalition. "We use the curriculum to facilitate a process within villages to

SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, October 19th, 2016

David Salmon Tribal Hall

Fairbanks, Alaska

(Preceding the AFN 2016 Annual Convention)

For more details contact:

tami.jerue@aknwrc.org



UNITY MEETING:

address violence against Alaska Native women

9:00am-1:00pm

- inform tribal leaders about important legislative developments & priorities concerning domestic & sexual violence;
- provide information about organizing efforts of tribes & advocates at the local, regional, national & international levels to address the safety of Alaska Native women; and
- engage Alaska tribal leadership & allies in discussing life-saving reforms in laws & policies.

SLIVER OF A FULL MOON:

a play addressing violence against Alaska Native women

(Dependent on funding)

The play highlights the challenges Alaska Native women face evident in the high rates of domestic & sexual violence & exposes the inherent inequities in a legal system that affords all tribes, except those in Alaska, criminal jurisdiction over non-Native perpetrators of violence against Native women.

It documents the grassroots movement leading up to the enactment of VAWA 2013 & has been revised to focus more directly on the ongoing struggles of Native women in Alaska.

Written & Directed by Mary Kathryn Nagle
(Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma)

Doors open
6:00 pm

6:30-8:30 pm

To donate/support
this play go to:
<https://goo.gl/dpnCrl>

create pathways to safety and increase accountability of abusers by the village."

The goal of the curriculum is to increase at the tribal level the village response. The first day is focused on increasing the village understanding of domestic violence. The second day is dedicated to villages working together to discuss how to increase safety for victims and accountability for abusers. At the end of the two days, the villages compile a list of ways to increase their response to domestic violence.

"The foundation of our curriculum on violence against women is Native and indigenous to Alaska. The core principles are the voices of our people, the teachings of our people, and the languages of our people," said Tami Jerue. "So, for example, when we introduce ourselves in our language, it is not just a word but the meaning to one's name in the Native language of the person."

Focus on the Impact of Domestic Violence on the Victim

The curriculum drawing on the voices of survivors breaks away from a legal or clinical approach and is based on the reality of the lives of Alaska Native peoples. "I am a survivor of domestic violence. I went through it for many years until I finally decided I was not going to take it anymore," said Joann Horn, Director of the Emmonak Women's Shelter and Co-Chair of the AKNWRC. "I was in and out of the shelter program for many years with my kids, and I didn't want them to see me being abused. So I said I am not going to take it no more. I know this is a hard topic, but you don't have to take it."

The traditional teachings of the Inupiaq people were hung on the wall above the participants as they discussed the hard issues of addressing domestic violence in their villages. "In the old days, there were consequences for abuse. Boys were taught the traditional way of respect, as were girls. These were rites of passage," said Shirley Moses, Co-Chair of the AKNWRC.

"I have been abused and because of my experience I felt I could make a difference

helping women and men going through such abuse," said Shylena Monroe, Director of the Maniilaq Family Crisis Center, and member of the local planning committee for the Nana Regional. "The shelter helps all the villages around Kotzebue and also Point Hope. We are here for the victims and can help them with protective orders, transporting victims to their home village, or just to talk. As part of the shelter, I am also on the Kotzebue Sexual Assault Response Team and advocate for victims of sexual assault. Remember you have the right to say no. You never owe anyone sex; your body is your body."

"Some of the barriers we face in the villages are silence and the perspective of 'mind your own business.' We cannot let people blame the victim. We need to teach our traditional ways," said Shirley Moses to the participants of the training. "Sometimes people do not want to report abuse, but if we as Alaska Natives stand up and speak up, victims may feel stronger. This is the first



such training for the Nana region, but you have a lot here and should build on these resources. You have your elders and the shelter program.”

Joining Together to Share Our Thoughts About Domestic Violence as Native Peoples

The AKNWRC partners with the host village and forms a local planning committee to develop an agenda specifically designed for the village or region. The local planning committee for the Nana Regional included the Maniilaq Association and the Maniilaq Family Crisis Center. Local villagers co-present during every session with members of the curriculum project.

Over 50% of the two-day curriculum is spent in small-group discussions. The goal of these sessions is to discuss domestic violence as indigenous to the people of the region hosting the curriculum training. For the Nana Regional, it was a time for villagers

to share their thoughts on domestic violence as Inupiaq people and other Alaska Natives. “The small-group discussions give everyone the opportunity to share their ideas about the effects of domestic violence on the victim, the abuser, and the impact of domestic violence on our villages,” said Shylena Monroe.

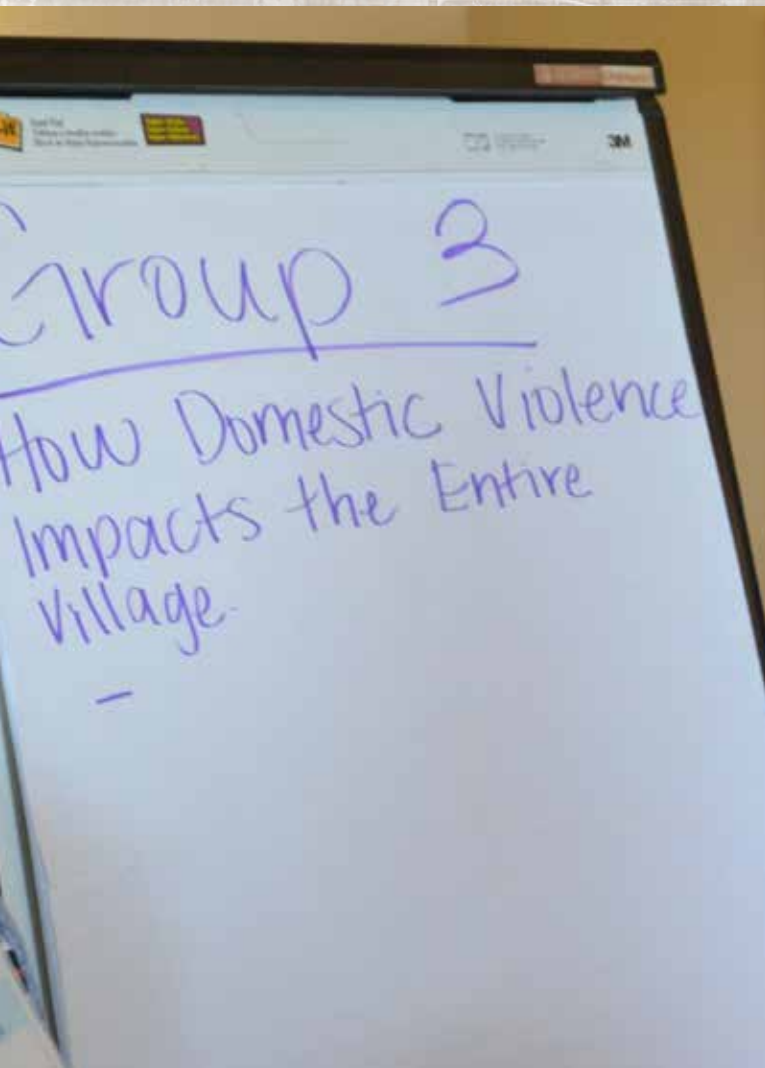
After the small-group discussion, everyone comes together in a large group to hear the reports from the small-group discussions. The facilitator or volunteer from each small group provides the report from their group and facilitates the large-group discussion. The reports give everyone the opportunity to share their ideas as Inupiaqs on the effects of domestic violence on the victims and the village, and the effects of the violence of the abuser.

Looking Toward the Future Safety for Victims, the Village, and Holding Abusers Responsible

Advocates for the safety of women have worked nationally for over three decades to end domestic violence. These efforts include improving services, policies, and laws at the village, state, federal, and international levels. Alaska Native advocates also worked hard in their villages to help their sisters in need of safety. The first Native shelter for women in Alaska was the Emmonak Women’s Shelter.

“We are hoping to have a follow-up to this regional next year,” said Roberta Moto of the Maniilaq Association. “It will be a time when we can come back together and share changes that were made and other issues to be addressed.”

“In 2013, 10 of us said we need and should have a resource center for Alaska Natives because Alaska has 229 tribes and the highest rates of domestic violence. So we started with 10 people, worked with our sister organization, the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, and gave birth to our organization—the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center. The curriculum works well because it was created by and for our Alaska Native peoples.”



The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) Conference

The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC), a nonprofit tribal domestic and sexual violence coalition located in Mesa, Arizona, held its fifth statewide conference, Arizona Native Peoples Gathering for Healthy Relations: Striving for and Achieving Safety, Healing, and Justice for All Our Relations, on April 26-28, 2016. This year's conference included tracks designed to address the youth, elders, LGBTQ community, violence against women, and engaging men in the movement.

Over 150 people from across the state attended the conference and participated in the general sessions, workshops, and evening events. Of particular significance was the Eleanor E. Roehrig Advocate Award ceremony, which recognized and honored five tribal advocates for their outstanding advocacy for and diligent commitment to victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence in their respective communities.



SWIWC Council of Women and staff (from left to right): Lorena Halwood, Carrie Imus, Mary Howe, Veronica Hunter, Geraldine Laughter, Leanne Guy, and Tania Harvey

This conference also marked the first time that the LGBTQ community was meaningfully included in the planning and implementation of this conference. SWIWC's LGBTQ Advisory Council members were on the conference planning committee and served as plenary and workshop speakers. It is through their guidance and leadership that SWIWC board and staff is learning and growing and helping to increase the capacity of tribes to better address and respond to the LGBTQ community.

While at the conference, members of the LGBTQ Advisory Council used the opportunity to hold a meeting. It is here that they developed the following mission statement: "To educate, support, and empower Native communities for increased safety, understanding, healing, justice, and resources for the LGBTQ community." Vanessa Losey and Honor Fisher were elected to serve as co-chairs for the Advisory Council.

For SWIWC, this conference was a success, not only because of the number of people who attended, or the wonderful speakers



Awardees of the Eleanor E. Roehrig Advocate Award (from left to right): Christine Thompson, Lorraine Woodie, Veronica Hunter, and Verna Joey (Mattee Jim not pictured).

"I'm very grateful and excited to be part of the SWIWC LGBTQ Advisory Council. We hope to bring awareness, training, resources, and better understanding of our LGBTQ community and the problems we face daily and usually in silence. I look forward to seeing this Council grow and make a big impact on the quality of care and services for our LGBTQ members."

~ **Vanessa Losey (at left in picture)**



"Speaking as a victim advocate, the Native American population has the highest numbers across the board when it comes to violence. Being part of a smaller community and being LGBTQ increase the danger. It is with this in mind that we would like to bring awareness and provide training and resources to help better serve the LGBTQ community. In coming to the table, each of us has something to contribute to this conversation."

~ **Honor Fisher (at right in picture)**

who presented, or the outstanding planning committee and volunteers who helped throughout, but mainly because it touched the hearts of those who attended.

Our hearts were opened when we listened to and felt the heartbreaking and beautiful life journeys of Nicholas Metcalf and Vanessa Losey; saw the stunned and happy faces of the Eleanor E. Roehrig awardees; let loose at the drag show; danced and sweated at the Zumba session; and during the closing session, when we listened to those who stood

and bravely shared their journey to healing, their appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about domestic and sexual violence, their gratitude for the inclusion of the LGBTQ community, their commitment to being more responsive to the LGBTQ community, and from the mom who expressed her understanding and acknowledgment of her son to whom she would return home and tell that she accepts him as he is.

Sacred we are!



SWIWC LGBTQ Advisory Council meeting in Mesa (from left to right, top to bottom): Nicholas Metcalf, Trudie Jackson, Kurt Begaye, Lenny Hayes, Elton Naswood, Vanessa Losey, Leanne Guy, and Honor Fisher. Members of the Advisory Council not pictured: Mattee Jim, Jodi Gonzales, Vonda Beecher, Miranda George, Violet Parker, Ian Austin



End of conference wave!

June 2016

International Update

By Jana L. Walker, Karla General & Christopher Foley
Attorneys, Indian Law Resource Center



Co-sponsors of the March 22nd parallel event shared strategies of indigenous women for social change: Dawn Lavell-Harvard, President Native Women's Association of Canada (top), and Tami Truett Jerue, Director, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (bottom).

Implementing Decisions of the World Conference on Indigenous People

At the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, over 150 indigenous nations and Native women's and tribal organizations secured key commitments from the UN and its member states to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. States committed to bring greater UN study, attention, and action to address the epidemic of violence against indigenous women, to consider a body to implement and monitor the UN Declaration, and to create new rules for indigenous governments to participate in UN processes. Work to realize these commitments is ongoing.

Commission on the Status of Women, 60th Session, March 2016

In March, representatives from the Indian Law Resource Center, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, and the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women attended the Commission's 60th session in New York City to press for action to end violence against indigenous women and build

support among states and UN actors. Meetings with delegates of the European Union, Canada, Mexico, and the United States and key UN actors and staff yielded important discussions. On March 22, these organizations joined with the Native Women's Association of Canada to co-sponsor a parallel event on indigenous women's movements to end violence, featuring speakers from the lower 48 states (Terri Henry), Alaska (Tami Truett Jerue), and Canada (Dawn Lavell-Harvard). The event examined strategies indigenous women in the United States and Canada have used to advocate for social changes and legal reforms to restore safety in their Native nations and to advance the rights of indigenous peoples and women affirmed in the UN Declaration. The event was attended by a capacity crowd. Supporting organizations included the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, Montana Native Women's Coalition, Native Women's Coalition, Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition, Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Inc., Uniting Three Fires Against

In front of the United Nations Headquarters in New York City (from left to right): Indian Law Resource Center's Karla General and Christopher Foley; Paula Julian (NIWRC); Jana Walker (ILRC) and Alaska Native Women's Resource Center's Tami Jerue.



Violence, and Wabanaki Women's Coalition.

NCAI, the Native American Rights Fund, and the Indian Law Resource Center, with the support of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence, Anvik Village Council, Clan Star, Inc., National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Native Women's Coalition, Sacred Hoop Coalition, Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition, Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, and Women Spirit Coalition, submitted a written statement urging the Commission to address the epidemic of violence against indigenous women in the United States, and calling for special attention to the situation of Alaska Native women in rural villages who have reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States and physical assault rates up to 12 times higher.

At the session's end, the Commission approved a resolution acknowledging its intention to address the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women as a focus area in 2017, as called for by the World Conference Outcome Document. Additionally, ¶ 23 of the Commission's Agreed Conclusions for the session urges governments at all levels, the UN system, and other actors to "prevent and eliminate discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls which has a negative



"Violence against our indigenous women and girls is a violation of our human rights. It is endemic and a crisis, and it must be stopped now. Today, we are calling on the Commission on the Status of Women to respond to this global human rights crisis." –Terri Henry, Board President, Indian Law Resource Center

impact on their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and which they are disproportionately vulnerable to, and that constitutes a major impediment to indigenous women's full, equal, and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision making." These actions shine a spotlight on violence against indigenous women and show the Commission is ready to take action to address the crisis in 2017 and beyond.

Expert Workshop

On April 4-5, an expert workshop was convened in Geneva to review the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples so it will be able to implement and monitor states' compliance with the UN Declaration. Consistent with the UN Declaration, the body must pay particular attention to the rights of indigenous women in order to ensure that states take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, so that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection against all forms of violence and discrimination. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is preparing a report of the results of the workshop that will be submitted to the Human Rights Council in June and discussed during the Expert Mechanism's session in July. The Human Rights Council may then consider a resolution to improve the Expert Mechanism as early as its September session.

Parallel Event - NGO CSW Forum
UN Commission on the Status of Women 68th Session

Indigenous Women's Movements to End Violence Against American Indian, Alaska Native, and Aboriginal Women

March 22, 2016 at 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

UN Church Center Chapel
777 1st Ave. at E. 44th St.
New York City, NY

Together We Are Stronger

Indigenous women worldwide suffer from multiple forms of discrimination and violence, and murder, at rates far higher than other groups of women. Speakers from American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and Canadian First Nations will share best practices indigenous women have used to organize and advocate for social changes and legal reforms to restore safety in their Native nations and communities. They also will share strategies to advance the rights of indigenous peoples and women affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Join Us

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center | INDIAN LAW RESOURCE CENTER | National Congress of American Indians | NIWRC | AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA | ENDOCKASIKENDES HOSHEE'N | AUTOCHEWENES EAU CANADIENNE

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Permanent Forum, an advisory body to the UN Economic and Social Council, met for its annual session in New York on May 9–20. Further information is available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/unpfii-fifteenth-session.html>

Looking Ahead: Summer and Fall 2016 Consultations on Indigenous Participation in the UN

In the World Conference Outcome Document states committed to consider “ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them.” In December 2015, the UN General Assembly requested its President to conduct consultations with indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions, UN member states, and relevant UN mechanisms on ways to enable such participation. Consultations take place in New York on May 11, May 18, and June 30, 2016. More information is available here: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/participation-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-united-nations.html>

Human Rights Council to Meet in Geneva

On June 13–July 1, 2016, the Human Rights Council’s 32nd session will take place in Geneva where it is expected to consider the reports of the Special Rapporteur on

Violence Against Women and of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women, which visited the United States in 2015. The Council will hold its annual full-day discussion on women’s rights and consider a resolution on preventing and responding to violence against indigenous women. The Permanent Mission of Canada held an informal consultation on the draft resolution in Geneva in March, and the Indian Law Resource Center offered several recommendations including:

- The Office of the High Commissioner prepares a report to the Council following its half-day panel on violence against indigenous women and girls in September;
- The Council requests a Secretary-General’s report on how to prevent and eliminate violence against indigenous women and girls; and
- The Council invites the Secretary-General to convene a high-level panel on intensifying efforts, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women and girls during the UN’s high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2017.

During the Human Rights Council’s 33rd session on September 12–30, 2016, a significant panel discussion on the causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls will take place. Due in large part to the



Meeting with Greg Dempsey, Mission of Canada. From left to right: Greg Dempsey (Second Secretary, Human Rights & Social Affairs); Indian Law Resource Center’s Jana Walker and Karla General; Paula Julian (NIWRC); Christopher Foley (ILRC) and Suzanne Cooper (Mission of Canada).

efforts of indigenous women's organizations, the World Conference Outcome Document "invited the Human Rights Council to consider examining the causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls." In response to continued advocacy by indigenous women's organizations, the Council decided to accept the Outcome Document's invitation by holding this half-day panel. The panel will provide indigenous women with an important platform to inform countries and the UN about the scope and severity of violence against indigenous women, and to make recommendations to the UN and its member states for actions to address this epidemic. Learn more at: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx

Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Organization of American States, a regional organization comprised of all 35 countries of the Americas, is continuing to negotiate with indigenous peoples on a draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. If consensus is reached on the remaining articles, the Declaration may be adopted by the OAS General Assembly as early as the 46th session on June 13-15, 2016, in the Dominican Republic. Learn more at: <http://indianlaw.org/adrip/home>



(Picture above) Meeting with Laurie Phipps, United States delegate. From left to right: Jana Walker (ILRC); Tami Jerue (AKWRC); Paula Julian (NIWRC); Laurie Phipps (US Delegate); and ILRC's Christopher Foley and Karla General.

(Picture below) Meeting with the Division for Social Policy and Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. From left to right: Staff member at UN; Paula Julian (NIWRC); ILRC's Karla General and Christopher Foley; Broddi Sigurðarson (Social Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues); Terri Henry (NCAI); Jana Walker (ILRC); Chandra Roy-Henriksen (Chief, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues); Tami Jerue (AKWRC); and NIWRC's Jax Agtuca.



Meeting with the European Union delegate Charles Whiteley. From left to right: Paula Julian (NIWRC); Jana Walker (ILRC); Charles Whiteley (First Counsellor, Head of Section Human Rights & Social Affairs); European Union staff; ILRC's Christopher Foley and Karla General.



Selfie moment with Native Women's Association of Canada, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Indian Law Resource Center, National Congress of American Indians, Alaska Women's Resource Center, and Erica Tremblay!

Upcoming NIWRC Webinars



WEBINAR SCHEDULE:

July 2016

- Wednesday, July 20th 2016 at 1:00-2:30pm
MDT- Wisdom/Voices of Our Elders (Series II)

August 2016

- August 2016- Restoration of Family Values and Healthy Community Characteristics (In honor of Family Heritage month, this webinar recording will be available all through the month of August)
- Wednesday, August 17th, 2016 at 1:00-2:30pm
MDT- Wisdom/Voices of Our Elders (Series III)

October 2016

- October 2016- Why Women Stay/Why Women Leave DVAM (In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month)
- October 2016- Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence: What's the Connection? (In honor of Substance Abuse Prevention Month)

November 2016

- November 2016- Women Are Sacred: Our Grandmother's Stories and the Movement to bring Safety to Native Nations (In honor of Native American Heritage Month)

Be sure to register and mark your calendars to keep up to date with the latest news and resource information to end gender-based violence in your tribal community. Webinars offer video-streaming training material through live interactive platform and include special guests with downloadable handout resource material.

Can't make a scheduled webinar? No problem, all webinars are recorded and archived and available for the public! Please visit www.niwrc.org/events to register, watch recorded webinars and keep be on the lookout for new additions. We will announce availability of following previously recorded webinars before respective awareness months.

EXPLORE ONLINE:

niwrc.org/events?field_event_type_tid=11



Support the VAWA

In the fall of 2015, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC) launched the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Sovereignty Initiative, a project focusing on the defense of the constitutionality and functionality of all VAWA tribal provisions. The VAWA Sovereignty Initiative is well underway with the filing of three amicus briefs in cases under review before the United States Supreme Court. In addition, under this initiative the first national social justice action was held on the steps of the United States Supreme Court.



"We hope that through the VAWA Sovereignty Initiative, NIWRC can continue to protect the legal and policy gains we have achieved through VAWA."

**Cherrah Giles
NIWRC Board President**

PIPESTEM LAW

This initiative is the NIWRC's national campaign to defend the victories won under VAWA 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2013. In partnership with Pipestem Law, the initiative will also champion other important advancements in federal law and policy related to the protection of Native women and children.

"For far too long, our voices have been silenced. We will raise our voices within the Court and this country to increase protections for Native women and defend the sovereignty of Indian nations."

**Lucy Rain Simpson
NIWRC Executive Director**



Sovereignty Initiative

Amicus Briefs and Social Justice Action

Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

On October 22, 2015, NIWRC filed an amicus brief in the *Dollar General* case calling on the United States Supreme Court to uphold the authority of tribes to exercise civil jurisdiction over non-Indians who sexually assault and abuse Native women and children on tribal lands.

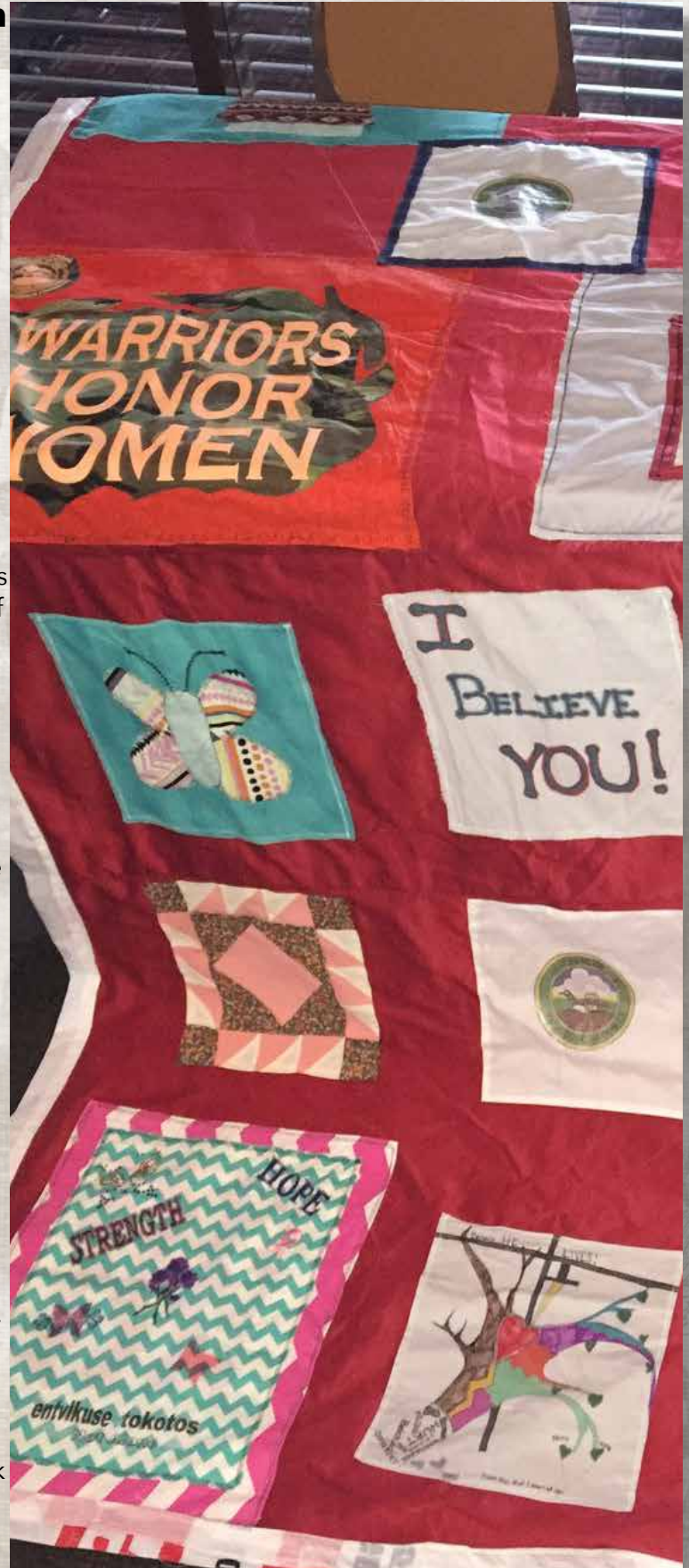
Voisine v. United States

On January 25, 2016, NIWRC filed an amicus brief in support of the United States Department of Justice, asking the United States Supreme Court to affirm the First Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in the *Voisine* case. NIWRC and its fellow amici urged the Supreme Court to uphold the application of the federal firearms prohibition to individuals who have been convicted of domestic violence crimes against Native women.

United States v. Bryant case

On February 1, 2016, the NIWRC filed an amicus brief to support the United States' position in the *Bryant* case. The brief argues that Congress did not intend to make the application of the habitual offender provision dependent on whether the defendant in the underlying tribal court domestic violence conviction received assistance of counsel. It further advocates that federal courts have no authority to dictate to tribal governments how they will treat their own members in their respective tribal courts.

In addition to the above amicus brief, the now historic **Quilt Walk for Justice was held on December 7, 2015**, during the oral arguments in the *Dollar General* case. NIWRC partnered with the Monument Quilt Project, FORCE Upsetting Rape Culture, NCAI, and Indian Law Resource Center to organize the Walk for Justice on the steps of the Supreme Court during the oral arguments in the case. The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomie and Tulalip Indian Tribes joined as partners for the historic walk. Over 400 people joined the national walk and over a million people were reached through a social media Thunder Clap that occurred as the walk began.



Why are these cases important to Native women and Indian nations?

“Just like people everywhere, tribal members go to the court where they live. Dollar General would force Native women to drive hours away from their homes and from where the assault occurred to the nearest state court. A citizen of my nation, Navajo Nation, living in Kayenta, Arizona, would have to travel 173.1 miles (2 hours, 48 minutes) to the nearest state court for Arizona’s Navajo County, located in Holbrook, Arizona. An average person cannot pay the added expenses like gas or hotel to make these trips, let alone take time off from work needed to drive to a state court.”



Leanne Guy
NIWRC Board Member

Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

The Supreme Court is reviewing the Dollar General argument that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw tribal court could not exercise jurisdiction over it because the defendant is a non-Indian. The case concerns the claims brought by two parents whose child, a citizen of the tribe, was allegedly sexually assaulted by Dollar General’s store supervisor when he was working at the store. The store is located on tribal trust land leased to Dollar General. It agreed to participate in a youth job-training program operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Following the alleged assault on the youth, he and his parents brought an action against Dollar General in tribal court, seeking monetary compensation for pain and suffering to cover the youth’s medical and trauma recovery expenses. Dollar General lost this argument in the Mississippi Choctaw Supreme Court, the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. All of these lower courts agreed with the tribe and concluded that the tribal court could exercise jurisdiction over Dollar General. Dollar General filed an appeal with the United States Supreme Court.





“Given the high rates of abuse, violence, and homicide that Native women experience, the presence of a gun in the home of an individual convicted of abusing a Native woman creates a serious threat that the Native woman—or her children—will be killed.”

**Wendy Schlater
NIWRC Board Member**

Voisine v. United States

The Supreme Court’s decision in this case has the potential to uphold, or undermine, significant federal protections for survivors of domestic violence. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9), also known as the Lautenberg Amendment, prohibits individuals convicted of a “misdemeanor crime of domestic violence” from possessing or trading firearms and/or ammunition. In *Voisine*, the First Circuit concluded that in enacting the federal firearms prohibition in 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9), Congress intended to prohibit all individuals convicted of domestic violence crimes in federal, state, or tribal courts from purchasing and/or possessing firearms—regardless of whether their conviction is labeled as a “reckless” or “intentional” crime.

Petitioners, Voisine and Armstrong, however, have asked the Supreme Court to overturn the First Circuit’s decision and conclude that Congress did not intend for § 922(g)(9)’s firearms prohibition to apply to criminals convicted of reckless domestic violence crimes. According to the petitioners, only those domestic violence crimes that are prosecuted as having been committed “knowingly” or “intentionally” should fall under the ambit of Congress’ federal firearms prohibition. Because many tribes prosecute reckless domestic violence crimes, excluding reckless crimes from the reach of § 922(g)(9) will place a large number of Native women in grave danger.

“In 2005, we worked to educate Congress of the need for this provision. The protections in the habitual offender provision are critical to ensuring the safety of Native women. Our women are battered and abused by their intimate partners at rates higher than any other population in the United States.”

Carmen O’Leary, NIWRC Board Member and Executive Director of the Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains



United States v. Bryant

The *Bryant* case has the potential to find unconstitutional a key section of the Safety for Indian Women title of VAWA 2005. The section under review created a federal domestic violence habitual offender statute providing enhanced penalties for repeat DV offenders such as Bryant. In addition to his most recent 2011 conviction in the United States District Court, District of Montana, Bryant was convicted of committing crimes of domestic violence in January 1998, July

1998, March 2002, September 2002, July 2003, and February 2005.

Until this provision was enacted, no sovereign government had the authority to sentence a perpetrator to a term of more than one year for his repeated acts of domestic violence. The question under review is whether the federal government’s prosecution of Bryant is constitutional based on the fact that his prior tribal court convictions for misdemeanor domestic violence crimes did not provide indigent counsel.

Donating to the VAWA Sovereignty Initiative

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) and Pipestem Law have joined forces to establish the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Sovereignty Initiative, a project focusing on the defense of the constitutionality and functionality of all VAWA tribal provisions. The VAWA Sovereignty Initiative is the NIWRC's next step forward in defending the 2013 VAWA reauthorization and other important advancements in federal law and policy related to the protection of Native women and children.

There is reason for all of Indian country to be concerned: *the sovereignty of our tribal nations is under attack, and we need your help!* The NIWRC needs the support and investment of Indian tribes to see this initiative through in order to protect the rights and lives of Native women. We respectfully ask that you consider making an investment in this critical work to protect tribal sovereignty and Native women.

We offer two ways to support the VAWA SI:

1 Mail your tax-deductible contribution, payable to **"NIWRC Sovereignty Initiative"**
P.O. Box 99,
Lame Deer, MT 59043

2 Visit www.niwrc.org/project/vawa-sovereignty-initiative to make your tax-deductible contribution online using our PayPal system.

Be sure to explore the page for videos, court case updates, and other VAWA SI resources. We look forward to keeping you updated about our progress and accomplishments in this important fight for Indian country. Thank you for being a champion for the rights and safety of Native women, children, families and communities!

NIWRC updates website to be accessible on mobile devices



The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) went live with a newly designed website on Friday, April 1, 2016. Explore press releases, videos, photographs, and audio from some of NIWRC's recent events.

"We're excited to kick off our new mobile-device user friendly website," said Lucy Simpson, Executive Director for the NIWRC. "We will continue our focus on providing online tools to communicate and distribute key information to support grassroots advocacy and national leadership to ending gender-based violence in Indigenous communities."

NIWRC.org will be an important tool in engaging, connecting, training, and sharing information and promising practices with advocates, Native nations, communities, federal agencies, and allied organizations across the country as they work to end these crimes.

"We continue to add new and updated resources to our website weekly with content produced by NIWRC staff and contributors," said Tang Cheam, Technology Director for NIWRC.

EXPLORE ONLINE:

niwrc.org





Summit.”

Sliver of a Full Moon is the story of a movement to restore safety and access to justice to American Indian and Alaska Native women in the United States. It documents the grassroots movement leading up to the historic 2013 reauthorization of VAWA—an affirmative step toward restoring safety to Native women and sovereignty to Indian tribes to address certain violent crimes by non-Indians on Native lands. On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed VAWA into law.

For more than three decades, federal law stripped Indian nations of their inherent authority to protect their own women, children, and communities from such violence. In 1978, the Supreme Court declared that Indian nations could no longer exercise jurisdiction over non-Natives who commit crimes on tribal lands (*Oliphant v. Suquamish*, 435 U.S. 191).

VAWA 2013 is a step in the right direction, but in the words of survivor Lisa Brunner, it is only “a sliver of a full moon of what’s needed to really protect us.” Legal barriers remain. VAWA 2013 restores tribes’ jurisdiction to prosecute non-Indians only in the context of domestic or dating violence. In addition, while Section 910’s exemption for tribes in Alaska was recently repealed in December 2014, Section 904 continues to limit tribes’ jurisdiction to crimes committed in “Indian country.” As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Alaska v. Village of Venetie Tribal Government* (1998)—which declared that “Indian country” no longer exists in Alaska—Section 904 continues to deny 228 of the 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska from the new protections afforded other Indian tribes.

“This exemption is especially devastating,” explains Lenora (Lynn) Hootch, Director of the Yup’ik Women’s Coalition in Alaska and NIWRC Board member. “Alaska has the highest rate of sexual assault in the country, and the rate of violence against Alaska Native women is more than double that of any other population of women.”

Sliver of a Full Moon has been presented at theaters in California, Washington, D.C., New York, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, as well as for the United Nations.

For more information, visit www.sliverofafullmoon.org.

Twitter Handles/Hashtags:

@NIWRC

@MKnagle

@NCAI1944

#SliverofaFullMoon

#IndigenousRemembrance

#VAWA

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Performance begins at 7:30pm

Tickets: <https://goo.gl/ITtU9P>



Rasmuson Theater
Smithsonian National Museum
of the American Indian

Co-hosted by the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women and Office for Victims of Crime, the Department of Health & Human Services’ Family Violence Prevention & Services Program, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

sliverofafullmoon.org

On Tuesday, June 14, 2016, *Sliver of a Full Moon* was performed at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. The performance was hosted in conjunction with the White House: United State of Women Summit and by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Office for Victims of Crime, and DHHS Family Violence Prevention and Services program.

“It was heartwarming to see that every seat in the Rasmuson Theater was filled. White members of Congress and staff, White House staff, federal officials, and national organizations filled the 322 seats demonstrating their concern for the safety of Native women,” said Lucy Simpson, Director, National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center. “It was our honor to partner in organizing this performance with the United State of Women

Welcome Kelly Hallman Research & Evaluation Specialist



Kelly Hallman, PhD, is a health policy researcher whose work focuses on domestic and sexual violence prevention, HIV prevention, adolescent sexual health and well-being, indigenous empowerment, women's empowerment, and equity in access to health services.

She uses participatory, quantitative, and qualitative research methods to explore how programs can be more effective. She has worked throughout sub-Saharan Africa and in Central America and South Asia. She has trained researchers and program implementers in how to monitor progress and measure impact, and is an adviser on many panels and studies, including the Population Council's Institutional Review Board.

Kelly has authored numerous publications, including a comparative spatial mapping study, *The Shrinking World of Girls at Puberty: Violence and Gender-Divergent Access to the Public Sphere among Adolescents in South Africa*, showing that girls' access to education and other community resources shrinks, while that of boys expands, at puberty due to threats of sexual violence. Research in Guatemala, *Indigenous Girls in Guatemala: Poverty and Location*, demonstrates that poverty and puberty-timed household labor demands and gender role restrictions - not indigenous ethnicity - are the main barriers to Mayan girls' schooling. *Social Exclusion: The Gendering of Adolescent HIV Risks in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa* confirms that female social networks reduce girls' HIV risk behaviors.

Kelly is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She received her PhD in health economics from Michigan State University.



Keep up to date with the NIWRC e-newsletter

Beyond the Shelter Doors
Advocate!

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) is excited to unveil our new mobile-device friendly WEBSITE in time for spring! Be sure to explore our new page for resources to aid in your journey to end violence against Native women.

This 2016 spring edition of *Advocate! Beyond the Shelter Doors* newsletter includes: a welcome to our new Research & Evaluation Specialist, Kelly Hallman, updates on our NativeLove youth challenge winners, awareness months coming up, and guest contributors Jennifer Himel (Hopi reservation in Northern Arizona) writing about her UNite to End Violence: Native Women's Empowerment grass-roots organization and Cindy Lynn (Cayuga Nation) from our Speaker Bureau, providing some indigenous healing for survivors, as apart of June's PTSD Awareness Month!

If you have an idea for the Featured Art section to the newsletter, we share art forms as a means of social change including, new documentaries or films, art exhibits and positive/uplifting projects connecting to domestic or family violence. Suggestions welcome!



Restoration

OF NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN

Subscriptions Now Available!

restoration.niwrc.org

\$30 Individual / \$100 Institutional



RESTORATION OF SOVEREIGNTY & SAFETY MAGAZINE, 2003-2016

Twelve years ago during the reauthorization process of the Violence Against Women Act, several national organizations came together to take a stand for the safety of Native women: Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women, Clan Star, Inc., the National Congress of American Indians, and the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. It was recognized that to fully participate in the national movement to create the changes needed to increase safety for Native women, broad communication was essential. The *Restoration of Sovereignty & Safety* magazine emerged to fulfill this task.

The *Restoration of Sovereignty & Safety* magazine is a publication dedicated to informing tribal leadership and communities of emerging issues impacting the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women. The name of the magazine, *Restoration of Sovereignty & Safety*, reflects the grassroots strategy of the Task Force that by strengthening the sovereignty of Indian nations to hold perpetrators accountable the safety of Native women will be restored. The magazine is a joint project of the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. It is produced and made available during national NCAI conventions and the annual USDOJ Tribal Consultation on VAWA.

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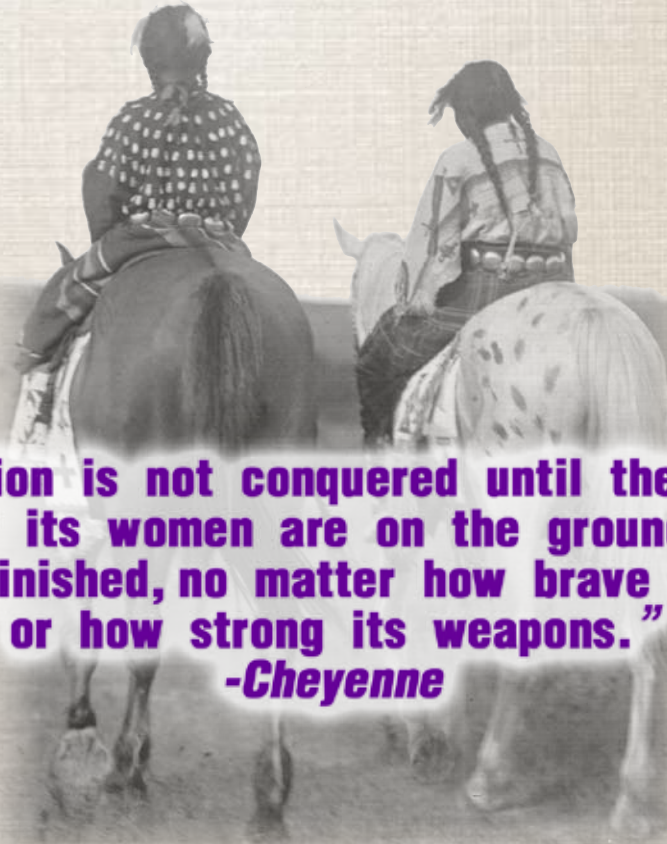


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Restoration

OF NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN



**“A Nation is not conquered until the hearts
of its women are on the ground.
Then it is finished, no matter how brave its warriors
or how strong its weapons.”
-Cheyenne**

Violence Against Women Is Not Our Tradition





National Indigenous Women's Resource Center


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