

# SOVEREIGNTY

## AN INHERENT RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Sovereignty requires the respect and active support of others. Sovereignty is diminished by violence in all its form. Silent witnessing or ignoring the violence of others is a form of violence in itself.

### TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

All Tribal Nations have an inherent right to:

#### A land-base:

The possession and control is unquestioned and honored by other nations. To exist without fear, but with freedom.

#### Self-governance:

The ability and authority to make decisions regarding all matters concerning the Tribe, without others' approval or agreement. This includes the methods of decision-making in all areas of life (social, political).

#### An economic base and resources:

The control, use, and development of resources, businesses, or industries that the Tribe chooses. This includes resources that support the Tribal lifeway, and the practice of spiritual ways.

#### A distinct language, history, and culture:

Each Tribe defines and describes its history, including the impact of colonization and racism, Tribal culture, worldview, and traditions.

*Colonization and violence and Native people means that power and control over Native people's lifeway and land have been stolen.*

*As Native people, we have the right and responsibility to advocate for ourselves and our relatives in supporting our right to power and control over our Tribal lifeway and land.*

### NATIVE WOMEN'S SOVEREIGNTY

All Native Women have an inherent right to:

#### Their bodies and paths in life:

The possession and control is unquestioned and honored by others. To exist without fear, but with freedom.

#### Self-governance:

The ability and authority to make decisions regarding all matters concerning themselves, without others' approval or agreement. This includes the methods of decision-making in all areas of life.

#### An economic base and resources:

The control, use, and development of resources, businesses, or industries that Native women choose. This includes resources that support individual Native women's chosen lifeways.

#### A distinct identity, history, and culture:

Each Native woman defines and describes her personal and Tribal history, including the impact of colonization, racism, sexism, women's culture, worldview, and traditions.

*Violence against women and victimization in general, means that power and control over an individual's life and body have been stolen.*

*As relatives of women who have been victimized, it is our right and responsibility to be advocates supporting every woman's right to power and control over her body and life.*