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.

An inherent right to self-determination 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.