

Love

February 2016

February 2016
Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

A woman with dark hair and a red headband is smiling and holding a baby. They are holding a large white sign that says "Native love is...". The woman is wearing a red headband and a grey shirt. The baby is wearing a grey shirt and a striped bib. The background is a plain wall with a red headband hanging on it.

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a denim jacket over a grey shirt and a blue lanyard, holds a white sign with pink and black text. The sign reads: "#NATIVELOVE IS Respect Your cultures and traditions. Learn, practice as well as accept, challenge and understand also. As be proud to be indigenous."

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#Native Acceptance Peace Equality

Love

Peace

World Equality

2



NativeLove wants to invest in a good way of hearing the distinct ideas, experiences, opinions, attitudes, knowledge, and actions of what healthy love is, or is not- but from youth in the world, not just statistics of the field.

Do we always go far enough to give native youth safe access to speak? A place in planning? What happiness and safety means to them? Or substantive power in our communities in a way they need us?



National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National Resource Center to Enhance Safety of Native Women and their Children

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What Is Native Love

NativeLove is intended to raise awareness and help end violence against Native youth by encouraging and empowering them to redefine Native Love and what it means to them.

In 2015, NIWRC focused on youth voices through face-to-face events, activities, youth's love of social media submission of photos, video recordings and the NativeLove Challenge. We wanted to hear how they can reclaim and tell what Native Love means to them. We often hear the talk about "Indian loving" as a hickey and black eye. This project gives us the opportunity to think about what NativeLove really is, from a place of honor and respect, so we can create change in our thinking and restore safety in Native communities, from the future generation. Through a grant with Verizon, The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (through partnership with Indian Law Resource Center) NativeLove raises awareness through connecting with youth through on site trainings at schools and tribal centers, photos and videos, posters, social media campaigns, FAQs, and Teen relevant resources and toolkits.

These are offered to support and inform youth and educators but also the greater healthy relationships movement of youth advocates, tribal leaders, courts, tribal police, policy makers, lawmakers, tribes, and the public in dialogue on this critical issue. NativeLove raised the volume of youth voices to support ending violence from the next generation.

What we know

Approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. American Indian and Alaska Native young women are survivors of dating violence or will experience dating violence at some point in their lives.

Indigenous women in the US experience some of the highest rates of sexual assault in the country. According to the US Department of Justice, nearly half of all Native American women have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner; one in three will be raped in their lifetime; and on some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.

Currently, there are limited resources available on this issue specific to Native and Alaskan Village youth and adolescents in our communities. A 1992 Minnesota youth study found that 92% of American Indian girls who reported having sexual intercourse have been forced against their will to have sex. In addition, 62% of those girls reported to have been pregnant by the 12th grade. The problem is addressed after it occurs and not prevented before it happens.

Why now

The NativeLove project and challenge encourages youth to utilize a space offered to them to develop a dialogue in their own voice about healthy relationships and what

NativeLove means to them. This project launched at the Chemawa Indian School during February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness month 2015 and concluded the first project year at the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indian Center in Thermal, CA. The project continues!



We want to hear from you! Tell us what NativeLove means to the youth in your community, start talking about healthy relationships, ending bullying and living a healthy lifestyle in your community. What does NativeLove mean to you? How do we start the conversation.

What can we do

Do you know someone who is being abused? If so, don't be afraid to offer help—you just might save a life.

What we can do is offer support to youth and youth educators. To do this, NIWRRC will showcase various toolkits and resources on a broad spectrum of wellness with the NativeLove Resources and Tools on our website at <http://www.niwrcc/nativelove.org>

In 2016 NativeLove has begun an NativeLove Youth Ambassadorship with the first challenge winner. This youth ambassador has joined our team, will participate in the national youth dialogue, have speaking engagements, write articles and blog posts meant to create a peer-to-peer environment of support and idea making. Please stay tuned for an Ask the Aunties online advise column, in which youth from across turtle island, Hawaii and Alaska will ask specific questions to the “Aunties” and a leader in the anti-violence and activism movement will be showcased to respond within their dedicated voice to support youth in ending violence, for us and the future generations. Ask the Aunties will have public policy leaders, activists, advocates, community tribal leaders, allies in action, authors, awareness activity coordinators, and most importantly survivors.

NativeLove Tools and Resources

HealthyMe

- Leadership <http://www.ncai.org/native-youth-> & <http://www.nativewellness.com/leadership.html>
- Wellness [wernative.org](http://www.wernative.org)
- Suicide Prevention [wernative.org](http://www.wernative.org)
- Two-Spirits <http://nativeout.com>
- Disabilities <http://natedisabilitylaw.org/resources>

HealthyFamily

- DV-<http://www.niwrcc.org>
- SA-<http://www.niwrcc.org>
- FosterCare/Adoption and Returning Home <http://www.wearecominghome.com>

NativeLove Tools and Resources

(Youth Voices Continued...)

HealthyLove

- Teen Dating <http://www.loveisrespect.org> and [wernative.org](http://www.wernative.org)
- DV <http://www.niwrc.org>
- SA <http://www.niwrc.org>
- Two Spirits <http://nativeout.com>

Healthy Friendships

- Anti-Bullying: www.stopbullying.gov
- Stalking
- Internet Safety <http://www.loveisrespect.org> and <http://techsafety.org>

Tools

- NIWRC of Teen Dating Awareness Month Toolkit <http://nativelove.niwrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TDVAM-Toolkit.pdf>
- Media Campaign: How to and Examples a captured NativeLove Event: <https://youtu.be/KhINibG26JQ>
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Activities
 - Candlelight Vigil Activities
 - Community Walks
 - Youth Party
 - Have a NativeLove Team Member visit your community for a customized NativeLove event with areas of specific needs/community response
 - Fundraising Activities

Products

- T shirts: <http://nativelove.niwrc.org/shop/>
- Free NativeLove pamphlet ordering: nativelove@niwrc.org

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Through a grant with Verizon, The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) with a partnership with Indian Law Resource Center and consulting with Buffalo Nickel Creative, Inc., uses NativeLove to raise awareness through connecting with youth through on site trainings at schools and tribal centers, photos and videos, posters, social media campaigns, FAQs, and youth relevant resources and toolkits. These are offered to support and inform youth and educators but also the greater healthy relationships movement of youth advocates, tribal leaders, courts, tribal police, policy makers, lawmakers, tribes, and the public in dialogue on this critical issue.

NativeLove raises the volume of youth voices to support ending violence within the next generation.

The NIWRC project uses new learnings and information to create resources. We keep an ear to the ground of contributions from grassroots, national and tribal programs and coalitions, survivors, tribes and research developed in the field, for tribes and tribal communities on how to implement NativeLove at home, at your schools and with your youth.

Meet the NativeLove Challenge Winners!

The NativeLove project is worth getting excited about! NativeLove is fueled by prayers in action & encouragement to think about creating change in our thinking and restoring confidence of safety through traditional ways of loving.

The NativeLove project reached thousands of youth at two national conferences, awareness month tribal events, powwows, community suicide prevention walks and memorials, tribal councils, tribal police, schools in Pine Ridge, SD; Sisseton, SD; Native LifeLines, Baltimore, MD; Rapid City High's Ateyapi Program; Chemawa School, OR; and Emmonak, AK. NativeLove also reached events such as Gathering of Nations; the MT Indian Higher Education Conference, Lakota Arts Festival, SD; National Youth UNITY Conference, DC, as well as visits to the Kaw Nation, OK; Pechanga/Pala and Six Bands of Luiseño Indians, and Seminole, FL, and from anywhere in the Facebook and Twittersphere.

NATIVE Love Challenge Winners 2016!



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

"She serves on her Tribal Youth Council of Torres Martinez. Kristen is a champion teen jingle dress dancer as well and believes in keeping her traditions and culture alive! She is learning to speak fluent Desert Cahuilla, as taught by her grandmother, Christina Morreo. She also is a champion teen bird dancer, of our region in Southern California. We are so pleased to hear the great news that she won the NativeLove Challenge!"

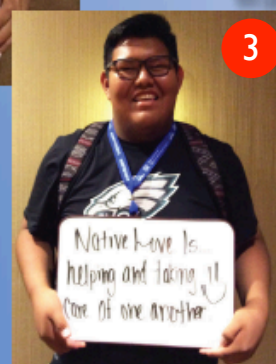
-Faith Morreo, Kristen's mother



Willie BullBear (Lakota)
Video Winner



Nicole Lucero (Navajo)
Photo Winner



Eric Woody (Navajo)
Photo Winner



Mark Renville, (Lakota)
Photo Winner



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Each winner will choose a trip of their choosing with flights, hotels and registration fees covered for the winner and an accompanying adult. NativeLove should be a positive life experiences! The 2015 winners are going to the Denver March Powwow, The Native American Music Awards (NAMMY's), Washington, DC Cherry Blossom and Museum Tour, Gathering of Nations Powwow, a Shoni Shimmel Atlanta Dream Game.

Teen Facts [1]

- Almost 1 in 10 teens reports being physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year.
- One in five tweens knows a victim of dating violence.
- One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse.
- Approximately 70% of college students say they have been sexually coerced.
- Eight states currently do not include dating relationships in their definition of domestic violence. As a result, young victims of dating abuse often cannot apply for restraining orders.
- New Hampshire is the only state where the law specifically allows a minor of any age to apply for a protection order; more than half of states do not specify the minimum age of a petitioner.
- Currently only one juvenile domestic violence court in the country focuses exclusively on teen dating violence.
- Only 33% of teens who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.
- Eighty one percent of parents believe teen-dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.

A teen's confusion about the law and their desire for confidentiality are two of the most significant barriers stopping young victims of abuse from seeking help.

[1] Citations available at http://nativelove.niwrc.org/statistics/#_ftn13

Federal Youth Law Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that protects the rights of all students to learn in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex, which can include sexual harassment or sexual violence. [2]

- sex stereotypes
- sexual assault
- sexual coercion
- dating violence
- verbal threats
- sex-based slurs or insults
- stalking
- unwanted and
- repeated contact
- Title IX requires that schools take action to eliminate the hostile environment and prevent further victimization

Students and school employees are both protected from harassment under Title IX. For more information:
<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=93>

[2] Title IX. (2014). Title XI Fast Facts.
<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=93>



Want to bring NativeLove to your community?

Please contact at 406-477-3896 or toll free at 1-855-NIWRC-99

Or email at NativeLove@niwrc.org