

**NCAI Mid-Year, Sacred Sovereignty
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Restoration

OF NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN

***La Jolla Band of Luiseno
Indians Historic Walk***

***Public Safety Initiative,
USDOJ Acts to Increase
Safety for Native Women***

***U.S. District of Western
Washington: Tribal Orders
of Protection***

***VAWA 2011
Reauthorization
Underway***



**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
IS NOT TRADITIONAL**



RESTORATION OF SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN



National Task Force
to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence Against Women



Dear Friends,

Greetings! As we move into the last six months of 2010 we welcome the many changes that are occurring on a national level. The Obama-Biden administration true to their campaign promise have elevated the attention of various Federal Departments to the safety of Native women. The increased attention has enhanced community awareness, the tribal and federal justice response, and we anticipate will increase services for Native women seeking safety.

In particular sexual assault of Native women is under a national, regional and tribal spotlight. Speaking to tribal leaders President Obama stated, "The shocking and contemptible fact that one in three Native American women will be raped in their lifetimes is an assault on our national conscience that we can no longer ignore." This statement is much welcomed as it will in fact take a national directive from the President to every level of government that sexual assault of American Indian women is a priority and must be addressed. Efforts at the Department of Justice are included in this volume to place in your hands information on the changes underway at the DOJ.

The attention to sexual assault was reflected in the increased number of tribal activities during the April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. These events stretched across Turtle Island including various walks, summits, and gatherings. Included in this volume are two such events. Also showcased are photos of the historic Walk for Justice of the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians. The first such walk in Southern California that closed Highway 76.

While we give thanks to the many gains we also pray that change comes quickly as every day that passes takes a human toll in the lives of American Indian women, their families and communities.

In the coming year we plan on once again rolling up our sleeves! Staying strong and step-by-step continuing our struggle to that day when Native women live safe and free of the threat of violence.

It is our constant prayer that all justice loving people will join our efforts!

Co-Chairs, NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women



Juana Majel
Pacific Area Vice-President
National Congress
of American Indians



Terri Henry
Tribal Council Member
Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians

In This Issue

Increasing the Tribal Response to Sexual Assault

La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians Historic Walk page 4
April Tribal Sexual Assault Summit page 5

White House and DOJ Elevate Safety for Native Women

Public Safety Initiative, USDOJ Acts to Increase Safety for Native Women page 6
For Native American Women, A Triumph of Justice page 8
USDOJ Announces Allocation of 33 New Prosecutors page 9

From the Courts

U.S. District of Western Washington: Tribal Orders of Protection page 10
U.S. Supreme Court: “Sexually Dangerous” Can be Held Indefinitely page 11

Legislation On the Hill to Watch

VAWA 2011 Reauthorization Underway page 12
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act 2010 Reauthorization page 12
Overview Sacred Circle National Resource Center page 14
Legislation to Strengthen Law and Order within Indian Tribes page 16

In the News

Virginia Davis, Appointed OVW Deputy Director for Policy page 18
Two Historic Resolutions, Cherokee Joint Council page 19
Honoring Wilma Mankiller page 19
Building Relations! National Domestic Violence Resource Network page 20

International Efforts

Online Tools: Using International Advocacy to End Violence Against Native Women page 21
Update on International Efforts to End Violence Against Native Women page 22

SOVEREIGNTY & SAFETY MAGAZINE, 2003-2010

The *Sovereignty & Safety* magazine is a publication dedicated to informing tribal leadership and communities of emerging legal and public policy issues impacting the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native Women. The name of the magazine, *Sovereignty & Safety*, reflects the strategy of the Task Force that by strengthening the *sovereignty* of Indian tribes to hold perpetrators accountable the *safety* of Indian women will be restored. It is a joint project of the Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women and the National Congress of American Indians.

Co-Editors: Jacqueline Agtuca, Director of Public Policy and Terri Henry, Principal Director Clan Star, Inc. **Photographs:** Clan Star, Inc., La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, Current TV. **Design:** Walt Pourier, Nakota Designs. **Contributors:** Katy Jackman, Staff Attorney National Congress of American Indians; Kirsten Carlson, Staff Attorney Indian Law Resource Center; Tara Azure and Verlaine Gullickson, Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women; Dee Koester, Executive Director, WomenSpirit Coalition; Lisa Brunner, Sacred Spirits-First Nations Coalition.

Increasing the Tribal Response to Sexual Assault

LA JOLLA BAND OF LUISENO INDIANS HISTORIC WALK FOR JUSTICE

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States. “The goal of the April efforts is to raise awareness about sexual violence and educate communities across the country on how to prevent it,” said Tillie Black Bear of the White Buffalo Calf Woman Society. “As funding to Indian Nations and tribal communities have increased under the Violence Against Women Act tribal participation in the awareness efforts have also increased.” Black Bear is a former Board Member of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.



Southern California Tribes leading historic 2010 La Jolla Sexual Assault Awareness Walk for Justice, including (from left to right) Mesa Grande, Soboba, Barona, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, Rincon, Santa Ysabel, and Pauma.

One exciting example of this increased participation is the “Walk for Honor, Walk for Justice,” sexual assault awareness walk organized by the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians. The La Jolla Walk is one of the first such efforts by Indian Nations in California and the first such tribal walk organized in Southern California. “We want equal access to justice for Native women,” said Wendy Schlater, Program Director of the La Jolla Avellaka Program. “We want services designed for Native women on our reservation and sister reservations. By organizing the Walk we hoped to raise awareness of sexual assault and the lack of response by the justice system.”

Tillie Black Bear spoke at the beginning of the walk linking the national grassroots movement to increase the safety of Native women to the walkers standing before her at the rally. “Tribal people across Turtle Island are standing together to end sexual violence,” said Black Bear. The walkers wearing t-shirts carry a graphic image of Black Bear and the slogan “Safety for Native Women” clapped in response. “Together we can build a national movement,” she said.



“A national movement to end the rape of Native women is growing,” said Tillie Black Bear to tribal people gathered to walk for justice.

Speakers and honored guests include Tillie Black Bear, Executive Director of White Buffalo Calf Woman Society from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Juana Majel, National Congress of American Indians 1st Vice President and Chair of their Violence Against Native Women Task Force, Jacqueline Agtuca, Clan Star Public Policy Director representing Sacred Circle, A National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women, and Adaline Maushardt, Staff Assistant to Congressman Darrell Issa.

Photographs of the three-mile walk and rally are featured throughout this volume of “Sovereignty and Safety.”

Tribal Sexual Assault Summit:

“RECLAIMING OUR SACRED- RECLAIMING OURSELVES: MOVING OUR CULTURAL AGENDA FORWARD”

Joining the growing number of tribal sexual assault awareness events held in April WomenSpirit Coalition and the Washington State Gender and Justice Commission sponsored a Tribal Sexual Assault Summit. The event, “Reclaiming Our Sacred- Reclaiming Ourselves: Moving Our Cultural Agenda Forward,” was held on April 21, 2010 at the Duwamish Longhouse in Seattle, Washington.

“The Summit will provide the forum for Indian tribes and programs to come together and identify priorities for the coming year necessary to enhance services to Native women victimized by rapist,” said Dee Koester, Executive Director of the WomenSpirit Coalition.

The agenda included speakers from the WA State U.S. Attorney’s Office- Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Roe, Clan Star’s Public Policy Director Jacqueline Agtuca, and the great- great -great granddaughter of Chief Seattle, Cecile Hanson. The participants reviewed the top 5 prioritized gaps as identified by the 2005 and 2007 Sexual Assault Summits, and the 2010 Pre-Summit Survey.

The priority gaps identified each year remain the same. Develop 1) a culturally appropriate response to sexual assault 2) child sexual assault services 3) investigation and law enforcement response 4) training for service providers, and 5) data about offenses and/or sex offender registration. In summarizing the success of the Summit Koester stated, “The purpose of the Summit was to provide an opportunity to develop action steps to fill these identified gaps with tribal specific responses. This process is essential to strategically increasing the safety of Native women and including tribal communities in this process.”

The mission of the WomenSpirit Coalition is “Eliminating violence against Native women and promoting the well-being of Native families and communities.” For more information on the Coalition go to: www.womenspiritcoalition.org. The Coalition provides training, technical assistance, and regional networking meetings.



Vickie Larkin, President, WomenSpirit Coalition Board of Directors meets with Tribal Sexual Assault Summit participants.



Dee Koester, WomenSpirit Coalition, Executive Director, opening the Tribal Summit on Sexual Assault held at the Duwamish Longhouse in Seattle, Washington.

White House and DOJ Elevate Safety for Native Women

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE STATEMENT, TOM PERRELLI, ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

When the Department of Justice launched our public safety initiative in tribal communities last year, we encountered a variety of reactions. Some people expressed skepticism at what they viewed as another round of empty pledges from a new administration. Others celebrated the effort but made it clear that words were not enough unless followed by action. Many were eager to participate in the process, and to discuss lessons learned through past efforts and the challenges that lay ahead. But all agreed that this initiative was long overdue. We know that a lack of effort and resources have contributed to poverty and violent crime on reservations, and in pueblos and villages throughout the country. The United States has a trust responsibility to First Americans and, quite simply, needs to do better. A guiding principle for our initiative is the recognition that, in addition to having resources to fight and prevent crime, partnerships are critical. We will be able to make lasting improvement in public safety only if the United States, tribal communities and other partners work together.




*Tom Perrelli, Associate Attorney
General, USDOJ.*

*When the Department of Justice launched
our public safety initiative in tribal communities
last year, we encountered a variety of reactions.*

The most critical partners are tribal nations themselves, each of which is unique and requires unique solutions to address the problems facing their people. To begin the public safety initiative, DOJ held a series of meetings and consultations with groups large and small. Following discussions with tribal representatives from across the country, we identified four areas where DOJ can work with tribal communities to make significant and lasting change: Supporting tribal justice systems; meeting our federal law enforcement responsibility; addressing violence against Native women; and developing initiatives for American Indian and Alaska Native youth. As we examine strategies in each of these areas, we know that we have to work hand-in-hand with tribal communities to develop and implement innovative solutions. In addition, the federal government can do much to improve its own response to violent crime in tribal communities by forging better partnerships among all federal agencies – such as the Department of the Interior – that play a critical role in public safety, as well as state and local law enforcement. DOJ has directed its U.S. attorneys to bring tribal, state and local law enforcement to the table to improve communication and develop cross-deputization arrangements and agreements for ongoing collaboration. These goals were laid out in a January 2010 directive to all U.S. attorneys with districts containing Indian country, and we have already begun to see the benefits of increased consultation and communication.

As we work to develop partnerships, there is no question that we need the resources to move ideas into action. In his fiscal year 2011 budget proposal, President Barack Obama made an unprecedented commitment to improving public safety in tribal communities. Recognizing the United States' role in



enforcing the law in Indian country and the challenges facing these communities today, that commitment includes a request for significant funding for federal prosecutors, FBI agents and victim-witness coordinators

We know that we have to work hand-in-hand with tribal communities to develop and implement innovative solutions.

devoted to combating drug trafficking and violent crime in Indian country. As important, however, is the effort to build tribal capacity for the long-term by requesting a 54 percent increase in our tribal grant programs that invest in tribal communities' own efforts to address the particular challenges they face. The request for the department's largest grant-making component – the Office of Justice Programs – includes \$1.2 million to redesign and develop data collection programs for tribal communities and, for the first time, specifically sets aside seven percent – or \$139.5 million – from all OJP grant programs for tribal organizations. The president's budget request includes \$67 million to hire tribal law enforcement officers, purchase police equipment, and pay for training through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. It also provides almost \$48 million through the Office on Violence Against Women, which includes funding for analysis and research on violence against Native women, a new clearinghouse that would give tribes access to resources to improve their response to sexual assault, and regional summits to train prosecutors to bring successful cases against perpetrators who assault Native women and children. In addition to new resources, our consultation with tribal leaders revealed that DOJ also has to change the way it makes resources available. In response to feedback from those representatives, we immediately began to streamline the grant-making process for tribal governments and make our support for tribal justice systems more comprehensive, flexible and robust.

In February, we announced a new system for American Indian and Alaska Native communities to apply for fiscal year 2010 funding opportunities.

We need to do this right, and we are going to need your help.

Tribal leaders have made it clear that requiring only one application, rather than separate ones for each program, would significantly improve their ability to apply for and receive the federal funding that so many of their communities depend on. The new Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation will serve as a single solicitation for all of DOJ's existing tribal government-specific grant programs. This coordinated approach will allow the department to consider the totality of a tribe's overall public safety needs. For more information and to apply by May 17, visit www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov. We are working to deliver on our promises, one step at a time. We need to do this right, and we are going to need your help. None of these efforts will succeed if we do not implement them strategically. That is why Attorney General Eric Holder announced the creation of a Tribal Nations Leadership Council, representing Native Americans from all 12 regions of the United States, which will advise him on issues critical to tribal communities. That is why each U.S. attorney will conduct an annual consultation with the tribes in his or her district. That is why DOJ will continue our visits with tribal communities and our government-to-government discussions. Together, we will take these next steps to improve public safety in tribal communities across the country.

“The worst imprisonment in the whole world is to be imprisoned in your own home. The most vicious of all crimes are domestic crimes.”
Vice President Joe Biden.

For Native American Women, a Triumph of Justice.

As posted by Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, on whitehouse.gov.

All Americans should be heartened by the recent announcement that the Department of Justice, under the leadership of Attorney General Eric Holder, is strengthening its commitment to fighting crimes of violence against Native American women.



Lynn Rosenthal

As part of broader DOJ reforms to dramatically improve public safety in tribal communities, the Attorney General recognized that though there is no “quick fix,” we “must continue our efforts with federal, state, and tribal partners to identify solutions to the challenges we face.” After holding listening sessions with tribal leaders across the nation, he directed all 44 U.S. Attorneys’ Offices with federally recognized tribes in their districts to reinvigorate efforts to combat and prosecute violent crime, particularly against women and children. And he announced an additional \$6 million to hire Assistant United States Attorneys—and additional victim specialists—to assist with the ever-growing Indian Country caseload.

After all, for Native American women, even “challenges” may be an understatement. On some reservations, violent crime is more than twenty times the national average—but women tend to suffer most. Some tribes face murder rates against Native American women of more than ten times the national average. And tribal leaders say there are countless more victims of domestic violence and sexual assault whose stories may never be told. As President Obama put it at the White House Tribal Nations Conference on November 5, “the shocking and contemptible fact that one in three Native American women will be raped in their lifetimes is an assault on our national conscience that we can no longer ignore.”

The White House strongly supports efforts to strengthen the capability of law enforcement to address public safety needs on reservations, including the announced Justice Department reforms and the Tribal Law and Order Act. That’s why at the Tribal Nations Conference, he commended Attorney General Holder for his efforts to ensure greater safety in tribal communities and thanked Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Chairman Byron Dorgan and Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin for their leadership on this important issue.

In his memorandum to U.S. Attorneys, Deputy Attorney General David Ogden explained why the federal government has a responsibility to address the endemic pattern of abuse, assault, and other violence that reservations across the United States face every day. Our unique legal relationship with Native American tribes mandates it. And the 1994 Violence Against Women Act authored by Vice President Biden calls for it. But our national conscience also demands justice. Only now, we can finally come to expect it, too.

Department of Justice Public Safety Initiative.

On May 4th, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the allocation of 33 new Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) positions to 21 judicial districts that contain Indian Country. The department has also launched three Indian Country Community Prosecution Teams. These new resources will enable the Justice Department to work with tribal and state law enforcement partners to improve public safety in tribal communities.



Eric Holder, 82nd Attorney General of the United States

“Violent crimes, and particularly crimes against women and girls, continue to devastate tribal communities across the country, and the U.S. Attorney community is crucial to the Department of Justice’s response,” Attorney General Holder said. “With 33 more federal prosecutors headed to Indian Country, and the launch of three new Community Prosecution Pilot Projects, we have made significant progress finding and implementing solutions to the public safety challenges confronting tribal communities. This Administration is committed to reducing the level of violent crime in tribal communities.”

The new AUSA allocation is the result of \$6 million provided in the department’s FY2010 budget for the hiring of prosecutors in Indian Country. Districts were asked to submit requests for additional prosecutors, which were reviewed with relevant statistical data by a team of U.S. Attorneys and staff from the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys.

Three additional AUSAs have been allocated for the three community prosecution pilot projects, which will be initiated with three Tribal Nations: the District of New Mexico will launch a pilot with Navajo Nation within the New Mexico border; the District of South Dakota will launch a pilot with the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation; and the District of Eastern Wisconsin will launch a pilot with the Menominee Indian Tribe. Each Community Prosecution Team will include an AUSA and a victim-witness position (also funded through the FY2010 allocation), and will be assigned to work on a regular basis on the reservation of a specific Tribal Nation. The pilot project was developed in an effort to bring the federal criminal justice system closer to Indian Country, and to improve collaboration between federal and tribal prosecution and law enforcement. The AUSA in each of the pilots will work with the tribal community to identify key objectives and strategies for that community and work with the tribe to implement solutions.

The announcement was developed with the help of recommendations that have been gathered by department leadership as part of a department-wide initiative on public safety in tribal communities. As part of this effort, department officials conducted a series of meetings addressing violent crime in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. In October 2009, Attorney General Holder convened a national Tribal Nations Listening Session and the Justice Department held its annual tribal consultation on violence against women. The department again had the opportunity to engage with tribal leaders on public safety in tribal communities during the White House Tribal Nations Conference in November 2009. In addition to these sessions with tribal leaders, department leadership has conducted meetings with tribal experts on law enforcement and public safety efforts.

For more information on the USDOJ public safety initiative, go to:
<http://www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov>

“The shocking and contemptible fact that one in three Native American women will be raped in their lifetimes is an assault on our national conscience that we can no longer ignore.”
President Barack Obama.

Thirty AUSAs will be distributed to districts as follows:

- District of Alaska: 1;
- District of Arizona: 5;
- District of Colorado: 1;
- Eastern District of Michigan: 1;
- Western District of Michigan: 1;
- District of Minnesota: 1;
- Southern District of Mississippi: 1;
- District of Montana: 3;
- District of Nebraska: 1;
- District of Nevada: 1;
- District of New Mexico: 2;
- Northern District of New York: 1;
- District of North Dakota: 1;
- Northern District of Oklahoma: 1;
- Western District of Oklahoma: 1;
- District of Oregon: 1;
- District of South Dakota: 2;
- District of Utah: 1;
- Eastern District of Washington: 1;
- Western District of Washington: 1;
- District of Wyoming: 2.

From the Courts

U.S. District Court Western Washington Suquamish Tribes Lacks Jurisdiction over Non-Members Living on Fee Land within Boundaries of the Reservation

Daniel and Helen Martinez lived on non-Indian fee owned land within the reservation boundaries of the Suquamish Tribe. Helen Martinez and their children are members of the Alaska Native Village of Savoonga. Between 2007 and 2008 both parties filed and utilized tribal court on domestic matters involving protection orders, child custody, visitation, and divorce.

The Court raised many eyebrows in the logic of its ruling. “The Court does not construe the provisions of the VAWA as a grant of jurisdiction to the Suquamish Tribe to enter domestic violence protection orders as between two non-members of the Tribe that reside on fee land within the reservation. There is nothing in this language that explicitly confers upon the Tribe jurisdiction to regulate non-tribal member domestic relations. The grant of jurisdiction simply provides jurisdiction “in matters arising within the authority of the tribe.”

The Suquamish Tribal Code specifically provides that any person may petition the tribal court for an order of protection by filing a petition alleging he or she has been the victim of domestic violence committed by the respondent. Suquamish Tribal Code § 7.28.2.

However the Court position is that “There must exist “express authorization” by federal statute of tribal jurisdiction over the conduct of non-members. (p.6) For there to be an express delegation of jurisdiction over non-members there must be a “clear statement” of express delegation of jurisdiction.”

The Court’s ruling may cause many victims of domestic and sexual violence seeking a protection order from a tribal court to question whether such an order will increase their safety. Orders of protection are a strong tool to prevent future violence but are only as strong as the recognition and enforcement provided by other jurisdiction of such an order..

Case Comment: Judge BJ Jones, Chief Judge Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and Prairie Island Indian Community, Director Tribal Judicial Institute University of North Dakota Law School.

“By equating non-Indian with non-member for tribal civil jurisdiction purposes the Court has created much uncertainty for Indians and non-Indians alike who are need of protection from domestic violence in tribal communities. Many state courts have expressly ruled that Williams v. Lee prohibits state court jurisdiction over civil actions filed against any Indian person arising in Indian country, irrespective of membership. This decision may potentially mean that a woman residing on an Indian reservation may not be able to obtain a civil protection order either in tribal or state court when the perpetrator of violence is a non-member Indian. It also directly conflicts with the definition of Indian in the Indian Civil Rights Act, which was clarified after Duro v. Reina to clearly state that Tribal courts can exercise jurisdiction over all Indian persons in criminal cases. Ironically this decision seems to indicate that a tribal court cannot enter a civil protection order against a non-member Indian but could prosecute the person criminally. Foolishness!”

United States Supreme Court: “Sexually Dangerous” Federal Prisoners Can Be Held Indefinitely

This month the United States Supreme Court ruled that federal officials can indefinitely hold inmates considered “sexually dangerous.” In a 7-to-2 majority the Court ruled that Congress had the authority to pass a section of the Adam Walsh Act allowing federal prisoners deemed “sexually dangerous” to be held beyond the date of their original sentence. The Court reversed a lower court decision that said Congress overstepped its authority in allowing indefinite detentions of those deemed “sexually dangerous.”

“The statute is a ‘necessary and proper’ means of exercising the federal authority that permits Congress to create federal criminal laws, to punish their violation, to imprison violators, to provide appropriately for those imprisoned and to maintain the security of those who are not imprisoned by who may be affected by the federal imprisonment of others,” said Justice Stephen Breyer, writing the majority opinion.

President George W. Bush in 2006 signed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, which authorized the civil commitment of sexually dangerous federal inmates. Many Indian tribes were outraged by passage of the Act that required Indian tribes, without consultation, to maintain a sexual assault registry in compliance with federal requirements or lose that authority to the state government.

The Act, named after the son of “America’s Most Wanted” television host John Walsh, was challenged by four men who served prison terms ranging from three to eight years for possession of child pornography or sexual abuse of a minor. Their confinement was supposed to end more than two years ago, but prison officials said there would be a risk of sexually violent conduct or child molestation if they were released. A fifth man who also was part of the legal challenge was charged with child sex abuse, but declared incompetent to stand trial. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., ruled last year that Congress overstepped its authority when it enacted a law allowing the government to hold indefinitely people who are considered “sexually dangerous.” Justice Breyer stated, “we conclude that the Constitution grants Congress legislative power sufficient to enact” this law.

Since under the Act those deemed “sexually dangerous” is limited to confinement in a federal facility the ruling has implications for Indian tribes. Solicitor General Elena Kagan stated at oral argument that one-hundred-five individuals have been subject to the law out of more than 188,000 federal inmates.



Families from 21 tribal communities, including children, youth and elders came out to support the 2010 La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians' Sexual Assault Awareness Walk.

"An unauthorized FVPSA threatens future funding and continues to leave out many tribal victims and communities who are not receiving appropriate - or any - services."
Terri Henry, Co-Chair NCAI Task Force.

Legislation On the Hill to Watch

VAWA 2011 Reauthorization Underway!

Efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act in 2011 are well underway. As in the past a large coalition of organizations are united under the umbrella of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women. The Task Force have formed specialize working groups to provide expertise and assist in the process of reauthorization. These efforts are anchored by many of the women that worked tirelessly and successfully reauthorized VAWA in 2000 and 2006.

VAWA Comments From the Field Delivered to Congress and White House!

Last year the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence launched the VAWA 2011 reauthorization process. It hosted two national conference calls and formed 17 working groups to provide Congress and the White House insight to outstanding needs that remain unaddressed by VAWA. Over 250 people participated in a series of calls. The NCAI Task Force to End Violence Against Native Women also hosted several national conference calls to discuss reauthorization in the context of Indian tribes and safety for Native women. As a result of the calls a tribal working group on sexual assault formed to provide expertise and recommendations on enhancing the Sexual Assault Awareness Services Program within VAWA for 2011. Information concerning outstanding needs and recommendations for VAWA 2011 from the 17 working groups have been relayed to Congress.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Reauthorization 2010: Continue Funding to Over 200 Indian Tribes.

The Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA) supports the life-saving emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and many other services provided by tribal and local domestic violence programs. It is the oldest federal program dedicated to providing public awareness of domestic violence and remains the only dedicated funding stream to fund shelter services for victims and their dependents. Since 1984 these programs have been the heart of our nation's response to domestic violence and for the majority of Indian tribes the only source of federal support.

FVPSA currently supports services provided by the more than 200 Indian tribes nationwide. Over the past 30 years, tribal shelters and programs have grown to provide a spectrum of services, which include: shelter; safety planning; counseling; legal services; child care and services for children; career planning; life skills training; community education and public awareness; and other necessities such as clothing, food, and transportation.

Yet in 2010 such funding and services do not exist for over one-half of all Indian tribes. Further, shelters in non-tribal communities overwhelmingly report that they cannot fulfill the growing need for these services. The National Census for Domestic Violence Services found that on one day in 2009, over 65,000 adults and children received services at over 1,600 domestic violence programs nationwide. Yet, on that same day, over 9,000 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of resources.

FVPSA 2010 Pending!

FVPSA expired in 2008 threatening to halt the progress that has been made to end domestic violence. This endangers the lives of thousands of victims and families that come forward for help each day. Congress must pass legislation to reauthorize FVPSA in order to ensure that communities can continue to support victims and families escaping abuse. FVPSA is critical to ensuring that tribal and other communities can respond with services to help victims and families fleeing abuse, yet the funding does not meet the need for services.

FVPSA also supports the National Domestic Violence Resource Network providing training and technical assistance on domestic violence. Contained in FVPSA is language to statutorily create a national resource center addressing domestic violence within tribal communities and provide services to Indian tribes and tribal programs. Currently, Sacred Circle serves as the national resource center for Indian tribes, tribal programs and communities.

Last November, Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Adam Schock (R-IL) and Gregorio Sablan (D-MP) introduced FVPSA in the House. H.R.4116- a bipartisan bill - currently has 73 co-sponsors. The bill makes some key improvements to ensure that programs currently doing good work receive the support they need, and provides access to competent services for victims and communities not currently being served well. The bill is in the House Education and Labor Committee, but they have not taken further action. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has begun work on a new and improved FVPSA, but they have yet to complete that work. Senators Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Michael Enzi (R-WI) will introduce FVPSA in the Senate.

FVPSA is currently funded at \$130 million, almost \$45 million below the authorized level of \$175 million. With funding of over \$130 million, FVPSA can also provide specialized services to children. Currently the National Task Force is working with both the House and the Senate to reauthorize and fund FVPSA for year 2011 and beyond. We are making progress, but there is still much to be done and you can help! Educate your Members of Congress about the ways FVPSA funding helps Indian tribes enhance the safety of Native women. FVPSA funded services have and can continue to save the lives of Native women!

Status of FVPSA 2010 Reauthorization:

- In the House – H.R. 4116 was introduced to reauthorize FVPSA;
- In the Senate – Introduction of a bill to reauthorize FVPSA with key improvements is needed. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) is the Senate Committee of jurisdiction.

FY 2011 APPROPRIATIONS BRIEFING BOOK

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women has prepared a FY 2011 Appropriations Briefing Book. It contains a complete overview of the Campaign for Full Funding of VAWA, FVPSA, and VOCA.

A copy of the Briefing Book is available at <http://www.nnedv.org/docs/Policy/fy11briefingbook.pdf>

“Our goal is to provide Indian nations access to current and emerging information on all policy and legislative matters impacting the safety of Native women,” Tara Azure of Sacred Circle.

Overview of National Domestic Violence Resource Network and Sacred Circle.

The 1994 Violence Against Women Act created four national resource centers focused on domestic violence. This original network included the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, the Resource Center on Civil and Criminal Law, the Resource Center on Child Custody Protection and the Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence. These centers comprise the Domestic Violence Resource Network (DVRN) and were designed to support development of local responses in all jurisdictions across the United States. Almost immediately it became apparent that the DVRN could not meet the need of the 562 sovereign Indian Tribal Nations, each able to pass their own laws and operate their own institutions. Thus was the impetus for the formation of a resource center designed specifically for Indian Nations and in 1997 Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women became the fifth member of DVRN. Sacred Circle is most similar to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence as a general resource center.



Tara Azure, Training Event Coordinator, Sacred Circle.

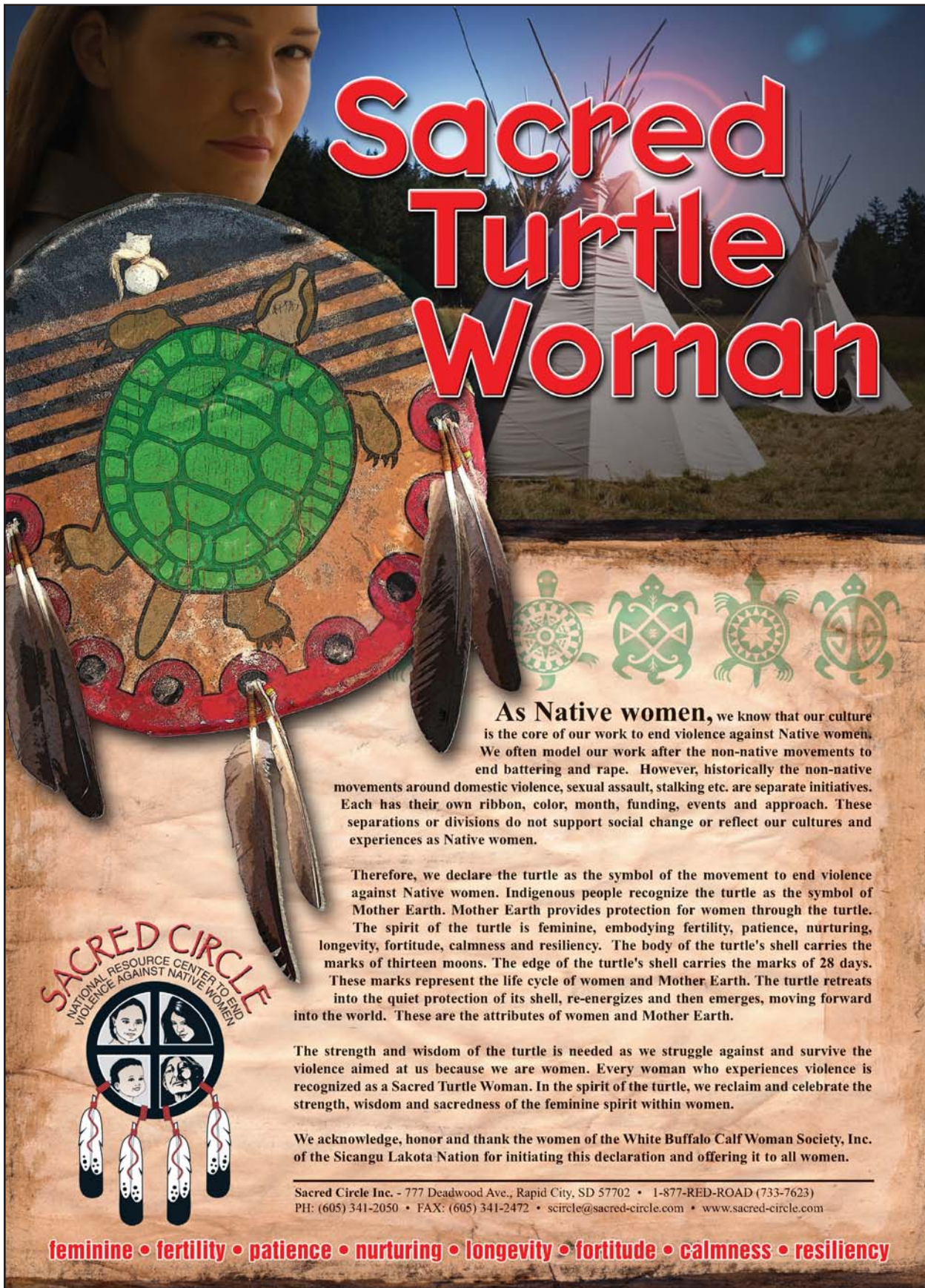
The leadership of the original DVRN had pre-existing, working relationships with Native women's leadership. Their work included development of the Violence Against Women Act, including tribal set-asides, recognition of tribal court protective orders, and tribal specific technical assistance. In a historic act illustrating the strength of women's relationships and meaning of accountability, DVRN advocated to create a Special Issues Resource Center specific to the development of tribal domestic violence response. Each resource center willingly reduced their budgets for one year to establish a native-specific resource center.

The work of Sacred Circle is based on the premise that restoration of sovereignty of Indian Tribes is a prerequisite to the restoration of safety and dignity of Native women. Faced with the daunting task of assisting 562 tribal nations Sacred Circle works to reclaim belief systems of traditional, Native life ways where the status of women is sacred. The organization has developed Native specific materials that acknowledge domestic violence as an impact of colonization with technical assistance and consultation based on the unique situation of each individual Tribe.

The goals of Sacred Circle are (1) to increase Indian Nations' capacity to provide direct services and advocacy to women and their children victimized by battering and sexual assault through technical assistance, model programming, training and information that is culturally relevant; (2) to enhance tribes' and tribal organizations' creation of coordinated community response efforts, including advocacy and shelter programs, criminal justice, law enforcement and other related systems, and (3) to enhance tribal justice system's ability to provide for victim safety and batterer accountability through analysis and development of models for codes, policies, procedures and protocols.

To-date, Sacred Circle has worked with over 150 tribes emphasizing the establishment of advocacy/shelter programs. As a strategy to support fledgling advocacy programs, Sacred Circle established a relationship with elected tribal leaders through the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which led to the NCAI Task Force To End Violence Against Native Women. Through a close partnership with the Task Force and Clan Star, Inc., Sacred Circle educates tribal leaders through this publication, Restoration of Sovereignty, Restoration of Safety for Native Women.

Sacred Turtle Woman



As Native women, we know that our culture is the core of our work to end violence against Native women. We often model our work after the non-native movements to end battering and rape. However, historically the non-native movements around domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking etc. are separate initiatives. Each has their own ribbon, color, month, funding, events and approach. These separations or divisions do not support social change or reflect our cultures and experiences as Native women.

Therefore, we declare the turtle as the symbol of the movement to end violence against Native women. Indigenous people recognize the turtle as the symbol of Mother Earth. Mother Earth provides protection for women through the turtle. The spirit of the turtle is feminine, embodying fertility, patience, nurturing, longevity, fortitude, calmness and resiliency. The body of the turtle's shell carries the marks of thirteen moons. The edge of the turtle's shell carries the marks of 28 days. These marks represent the life cycle of women and Mother Earth. The turtle retreats into the quiet protection of its shell, re-energizes and then emerges, moving forward into the world. These are the attributes of women and Mother Earth.

The strength and wisdom of the turtle is needed as we struggle against and survive the violence aimed at us because we are women. Every woman who experiences violence is recognized as a Sacred Turtle Woman. In the spirit of the turtle, we reclaim and celebrate the strength, wisdom and sacredness of the feminine spirit within women.

We acknowledge, honor and thank the women of the White Buffalo Calf Woman Society, Inc. of the Sicangu Lakota Nation for initiating this declaration and offering it to all women.

Sacred Circle Inc. - 777 Deadwood Ave., Rapid City, SD 57702 • 1-877-RED-ROAD (733-7623)
PH: (605) 341-2050 • FAX: (605) 341-2472 • scircle@sacred-circle.com • www.sacred-circle.com

feminine • fertility • patience • nurturing • longevity • fortitude • calmness • resiliency

Legislation to Strengthen Law and Order within Indian Tribes: Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010.



*U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND),
Chairman of the Senate Committee
on Indian Affairs.*

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, introduced major bi-partisan legislation in the spring of 2009 to strengthen law enforcement and justice in Indian communities. The legislation is in response to violent crime that officials say have reached “epidemic” levels on some reservations due to chronic under funding of law enforcement and justice programs, and a broken, divided system for policing Indian lands.

The legislation, the Tribal Law and Order Act, is designed to boost law enforcement efforts by providing tools to tribal justice officials to fight crime in their own communities, improving coordination between law enforcement agencies, and increasing accountability standards.

“The increase in violence on some reservations is epidemic. Violence against women is growing and now one in three women on Indian reservations will be a victim of rape or sexual assault during their lifetime. That is intolerable and we have to stop it,”

Dorgan said. “We cannot ignore the fact that drug traffickers are now targeting Indian Reservations as safe havens because of the lack of police presence and the disjointed system of justice that is in place.”

Dorgan consulted widely with Indian communities and tribal leaders in drafting the legislation and held eight hearings on this issue in the 110th Congress. On March 18 of this year, he held a hearing to examine BIA tribal police recruitment, training, hiring, and retention, at which the need to strengthen law enforcement in Indian communities was prominently discussed.

“American Indians deserve to feel safe in their homes, and safe in their communities,” Dorgan said, “and the federal government has treaty and trust obligations that are supposed to see that they do. This legislation will not solve every problem over night, but it is an important effort to significantly change things for the better in many communities.”

Twenty-one Senate colleagues from both parties joined Dorgan in offering the legislation. Joining Dorgan as co-sponsors to this legislation are Committee Vice Chairman Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), and Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM),

“Violence against women is growing and now one in three women on Indian reservations will be a victim of rape or sexual assault during their lifetime. That is intolerable and we have to stop it.”

U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan.

John Kyl (R-AZ), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), McCain (R-AZ), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), John Thune (R-SD), John Tester (D-MT), Mark Begich (D-AK), and Tom Udall (D-NM), Merkley (D-OR), Boxer (D-CA), Crapo (R-ID), Stabenow (D-MI), Bennet (D-CO), Murray (D-WA), and Franken (D-MN). The House version of the bill, H.R. 1924, has 18 co-sponsors and is currently being marked up by the House Judiciary Committee.

Both bills seek to strengthen law enforcement and justice in Indian communities by doing the following:

- Enhancing coordination between the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and tribal communities about the investigation and prosecution of Indian country crimes.
- Encouraging more aggressive prosecution of reservation crimes at the federal level. Between 2004 and 2007, the United States declined to prosecute 62 percent of Indian country criminal cases referred to federal prosecutors, including 72 percent of child sexual crimes, and 75 percent of adult rape cases.
- Enhancing the sentencing authority of tribal courts to punish offenders up to three years imprisonment. Current law limits tribal court sentencing authority to no more than one year for any single offense.
- Expanding programs that authorize tribal police to make arrests for all crimes committed on Indian lands, and that provide direct access to national crime databases to arm police with vital criminal history information about suspects.
- Investing in existing programs meant to improve courts, jails, youth programs, and policing efforts in Indian Country.
- Addressing the epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assault in Indian Country by enhancing training and coordination to aid the investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence.



Over 250 walkers joined the La Jolla Sexual Assault Awareness representing 21 tribal communities and two tribal coalitions, the Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition and the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition.

In the News

Honoring Our Sister, Virginia Davis Joins Office on Violence Against Women

The hardworking grassroots tribal advocates welcomed and rejoiced at the announcement that Virginia Davis would join the Office on Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice. “This is a reason to celebrate!” said Juana Majel, Co-Chair, NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women.

Previously Virginia served as Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor at the National Congress of American Indians. While at NCAI Virginia’s many responsibilities included working day-to-day with the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women. Virginia became a critical link between Washington DC and advocates, criminal justice practitioners, tribal leaders and experts working to enhance the safety of Native women. In working with the Task Force Virginia developed detailed expertise on VAWA, Family Violence Prevention Act, Nation-to-Nation consultation and other legislation and federal policy impacting Indian tribes. Virginia also represented NCAI internationally and at UN negotiations related to the declaration of indigenous peoples. “Virginia burned the midnight candle for many years to support and increase the safety of Native women,” said Terri Henry, NCAI Task Force Co-chair.

Many of you may not know that prior to joining NCAI, Virginia was a Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellow at Georgetown University and worked at the National Women’s Law Center. She is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School. Virginia is a fabulous demonstration that public policy issues for women can stand alone in the world of struggles against all forms of oppression.

Virginia will serve as a senior advisor to the OVW Director and coordinate inter-department and inter-agency activities and policy issues, including senior advisors at the White House. While not a member of the OVW Tribal Unit Virginia will provide strong policy and legal support for tribal issues. Virginia is much needed at the DOJ. Let us all wish her well!



Virginia Davis at the Sacred Circle booth, NCAI 62nd Annual Convention, 2005.

Cherokee Joint Council Pass Two Historic Resolutions: Recognition of Wilma Mankiller as Cherokee National Treasure, and to Support Safety for Native Women.

The Councils of the Cherokee Nation and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians met at a Joint Council Meeting held in Catoosa, Oklahoma on April 16th. The two Councils unanimously passed two historic resolutions.

The Councils approved a resolution honoring the former Deputy Chief and Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller as a National Treasure. The title is given to those who portray leadership, statesmanship and who make cultural contributions to the Cherokee people.

The councils passed a second resolution supporting the increase in safety of Native women through the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2011 and reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act in 2010. The reauthorization of these two landmark Federal Acts is critical to continue the progress made during the last decade to increase the safety of Native women.

Terri Henry, Eastern Band Cherokee Council Member, author of the resolution stated, "One of three Native women will be raped in their life time, six of ten will be physically assaulted, and Native women are stalked at twice the rate of any other population of women. These statistics from the Department of Justice compel us to act and support these life-saving and historic legislative measures. While these two resolutions were introduced separately the resolution to enhance the safety of Native women honors the legacy and leadership of Wilma Mankiller to the Cherokee people."

In Memory of Wilma Mankiller

Wilma Mankiller passed on April 6 at the age of 64 from pancreatic cancer. Wilma served as Deputy Chief from 1983-85 and as Principal Chief from 1985-95. Under her leadership the Cherokee Nation implemented multiple initiatives in the areas of educational, health, and economy. Her leadership was not limited to that of the Cherokee Nation but extended far beyond as described by Indian Country Today, "A heroine of the women's rights movement, she spent countless hours devoted to philanthropic work after her time as chief, serving on numerous minority and women-focused boards, including those of the Ford Foundation, the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Seventh Generation Fund, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations and the Freedom Forum. Wilma inspired her people and the world and we honor her legacy of leadership.

Honorable and former Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller with Sovereignty and Safety Magazine editors Jacqueline Agtuca (left) and Terri Henry (right) after speaking in Durango, Colorado. Wilma offered a copy of the magazine by Terri smiled and responded, "I read it and have a copy on my desk."



"We are better people and a stronger tribal nation because of her example of Cherokee leadership, statesmanship, humility, grace, determination and decisiveness. When we become disheartened, we will be inspired by remembering how Wilma proceeded undaunted through so many trials and tribulations," Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

"Brushing up against death matured me and absolutely convinced me that there is a spiritual world where unconditional love abounds," Wilma Mankiller, Everyday is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women, Fulcrum Publishing, 2004.

Building and Strengthening Relations to Increase Safety! Domestic Violence Resource Network Meets in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Nationally technical assistance providers are a critical link for the grassroots to stay in tune with issues impacting the safety of Native women. Over the last 15 years important federal resources have increased the response of the justice system and services for women. The Domestic Violence Resource Network, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, is an important source of technical assistance for these programs.

In an effort to increase access of service providers in rural and tribal communities the Network held their spring meeting on May 18th in Bismarck, North Dakota. Tara Azure of Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women facilitated the training session. “The DVRN meeting creates the opportunity for national technical assistance providers to better understand violence against Native women. It also provides tribal programs access to the national resource centers that have decades of experience on a policy level to increase the safety of women,” said Tara.

“Today I want to say to you that tribal and non-tribal programs can work together to increase the safety of Native women and all women. The First Nations Women’s Alliance and the North Dakota State Coalition have worked together as sister organizations to increase services and safety. Access to the national resource centers providing technical assistance will increase our capacity to provide technical assistance to the five American Indian tribes in North Dakota,” said Linda Thompson, Executive Director, First Nations Women’s Alliance.

“We want to increase the access that tribal shelters, coalitions, and service providers have to the national resource centers funded to provide technical assistance. The centers are here to assist tribal and non-tribal programs.” Said Anne Menard, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Resource Network.



Tara Azure, Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women gives a warm welcome to Allison Randall of the Administration for Children and Families, USHHS, the administering agency of the Family Violence Prevention Services Act.



Linda Thompson, Executive Director, First Nations Women Alliance (right) provided an overview of the joint working relationship of the tribal coalition and the North Dakota Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. DeAnna White Bear (left) of the Fort Berthold Coalition Against Domestic Violence also participated in the session.

International Efforts

Now Online: Using International Advocacy to End Violence Against Native Women.

“Every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres.” Article 3, Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.

The Indian Law Resource Center, in coordination with the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Native Women, has launched a series of new web pages on how to use international advocacy to end violence against Native women.

International bodies such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States have condemned violence against women as a human rights violation, meaning the United States government’s failure to respond to the epidemic of violence against Native American women is a human rights violation under international law. We are working to raise awareness among the international community about the staggering rates of violence against Native women in the United States, and increase the international pressure on the U.S. to respond to this crisis.

- Violence Against Native Women Violates Human Rights, <http://www.indianlaw.org/en/safewomen/humanrights>
- How Can International Advocacy Reduce Violence Against Native Women?, <http://www.indianlaw.org/en/safewomen/international>

The web pages also provide three examples of how Native women’s organizations and tribes have used international advocacy to end violence against Native women.

- Native Women Provide Testimony Before UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, <http://www.indianlaw.org/en/safewomen/CERD>
- Native Women and Tribes File Amicus Brief in *Gonzales v. United States*, <http://www.indianlaw.org/en/safewomen/gonzales>
- Educating Special Rapporteurs About Violence Against Native Women, <http://www.indianlaw.org/en/safewomen/rapporteurs>



The screenshot shows a web page from the Indian Law Resource Center. The header includes the organization's name and logo, along with navigation links: HOME, ABOUT US, PROJECTS, RESOURCES, CONTACT US, INDIGENOUS NOTES, DONATE, and STAFF LOGIN. There is also a search bar and a link to subscribe to an e-newsletter. The main heading is "Violence Against Native Women Violates Human Rights". Below the heading is a large image of a Native American woman in traditional dress. To the left of the image is a sidebar with a list of links: Human Rights and Law Reform, Human Rights Training, United Nations, Organization of American States, Multilateral Development Banks, Safe Women, Strong Nations, ACT NOW: Educate the Inter-American Commission about Violence Against Native Women, Violence Against Native Women Violates Human Rights, How Can International Advocacy Reduce Violence Against Native Women?, Native Women Provide Testimony Before UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Native Women and Tribes File an Amicus Brief in *Gonzales v. United States*, Educating Special Rapporteurs about Violence Against Native Women, Land Rights and Environment, Alaska and Yukon, Innu Nation, Land Law Project, Conservation Handbook, Guatemala, Mohawk Nation Land Claim, Tonawanda Seneca Land Claim, and Past Projects and Accomplishments. To the right of the image is a text block starting with "Human rights are rights that are inherent to being human..." and ending with "International Human Rights Law Condemns Violence Against Women".

"[G]eneral and discriminatory judicial ineffectiveness... creates a climate that is conducive to domestic violence, since society sees no evidence of willingness by the State, as the representative of the society, to take effective action to sanction such acts."

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Maria da Penha v. Brasil, Case 12.051, Report No. 54/01, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.111 Doc. 20 rev. at 704, para. 56 (April 16, 2001).

UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

Native women have continued in their efforts to advocate on the international level to educate international human rights bodies about the epidemic of violence against Indian and Alaska Native women. Advocacy at the international level compliments and strengthens advocacy efforts on the domestic level by educating legislators and policy makers in the United States about their international human rights obligations to Native women and encouraging international human rights bodies to investigate, report, and comment on United States' failure to meet its international obligations to protect Native women.

October 2009: In commemoration of domestic violence awareness month, the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Native Women and the Indian Law Resource Center sponsored a campaign to educate the Organization of American States' Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights about this human rights crisis. The campaign targeted the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women because she can investigate and make recommendations to the United States government on how to end violence against Native women. Several tribes and Native women's coalitions submitted letters to the Special Rapporteur detailing how violence against Native women affects their communities and requesting that she conduct site visits to Indian communities throughout the United States to further investigate the epidemic of violence against Indian women and its implications on the United States' international human rights obligations.

February 2010: On separate occasions, NCAI and the Indian Law Resource Center met with officials of the United States Department of State to educate them about violence against Native women and encourage them to include the issue in their state report to the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of their Universal Periodic Report. For the first time, the United States will participate in a Universal Periodic Report before the UN Human Rights Council. The Universal Periodic Review is a unique process to review the human rights records of all 192 UN member-states every four years. Its ultimate goal is to improve human rights conditions in every country and it is designed to prompt, support, and expand the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground.

April 2010: Lisa Brunner, Executive Director, of the Sacred Spirits-First Nations Coalition presented a statement at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ms. Brunner, a citizen of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation, called on the UN Special Rapporteurs on Violence Against Women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, "to investigate the complexities and neglect of the United States in their legal obligations to our Tribal Nations in PL 280 States." Her efforts compliment those of the University of Virginia Law School Human Rights Clinic, which has collected information from several members of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Native Women, to submit to Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.



Lisa Brunner, Executive Director, Sacred Spirits-First Nations Coalition speaking at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



Proudly displaying the La Jolla Tribal Flag are Tribal Chair LaVonne Peck (left) and Doris Beresford, La Jolla Native Women's Advisory Committee (LJNWAC) (right).



LJNWAC members and their families celebrate the success of the Walk. Pictured left to right are Shawnee and Darla Schmidt and Doris and John Beresford.



After the Walk a "Wiping of the Tears Ceremony" was held for community members. Pictured left to right are Isaac Martinez, Belinda Ruelas (LJNWAC member), Dusty Martinez, and Ty Morretti.



Doris "Mitzi" Magante, (LJNWAC member) reflects on the day of activities.



Tribal representatives listen to Juana Majel, NCAI Task Force Co-Chair, at the kick-off of the Walk. Pictured left to right are Soboba Tribal Chairwoman Rosemary Murillo, Delia Gutierrez holding Barona Band of Mission Indians flag, Adele Rodriguez holding the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association flag.

“One of the first teachings White Buffalo Calf Woman brought to the Lakota people is that even in thought women are to be respected,” Tillie Black Bear.

“RAPE ON THE RESERVATION”

June 2, 2010, Current TV aired “Rape on the Reservation” a fast moving, on point, documentary that focused the media spotlight on a national crisis - the rape of Native women. Alarmed at the Department of Justice estimate that one in three American Indian women will be raped in their lifetimes “Vanguard” stepped-up to investigate this critical issue. The documentary shock most viewers resulting in tears, anger, and new demands for accountability and change.



Mariana Van Zeller Vanguard correspondent traveled to the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation and met extensively with tribal people to investigate rape of Native women.

Correspondent Mariana Van Zeller traveled to the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation and met extensively with tribal people on the ground. The hour-long documentary exposes the frightening reality of rape and violence committed daily against Sicangu women at Rosebud. It portrays a spectrum of violence from harassment, intimidation, physical and sexual violence, to murder.

The documentary exposes the failure of government agencies and screams, “you can do better.” It does so by providing national media access to those that work day and night providing services to women and creating a pathway to safety. No time for passing judgment on past policies “Rape on the Reservation” is a statement that in 2010 we must create a safer world for Native women. “Vanguard” as a documentary series reaching 30 million homes and an unlimited Internet audience accomplished its goal of airing issues that have social significance.

Crimes Against Indian Women Are Not A Priority

“The stats speak for themselves ... I can count on maybe one hand the number of Native women I know that have not been raped or battered. And the feds did 28 prosecutions for the entire country ... that is enough to stop a woman right there,” said Brenda Hill, South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The lack of trust that anything will be done if the violence is reported is based in the reality that only a small percentage of cases are federally prosecuted. In 2006 USDOJ declined to prosecute 65 percent of major crimes originating on reservations.

“We have not met the commitment we owe to them as tribal members and citizens of the United States. We need to be doing a better job. Part of it is making a commitment ... a priority that the US Attorney will prosecute every single one of these cases.” said Brendan Johnson, United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota. In response to tribal



Brenda Hill (right) and Tillie Black Bear (left), grass-roots tribal women working within the movement for sovereignty and safety.

"I just got sexually assaulted... Instead of questioning me over and over and over ... do something about that man. It is just so difficult,"
Survivor.

leaders concerns about the lack of federal prosecution of rape and domestic violence cases Attorney General Eric Holder has announced that 33 additional federal prosecutors will be assigned to prosecute such cases.

"Men rape because they can," said Tillie Black Bear, White Buffalo Calf Woman Society. "Until the system holds rapist accountable with severe consequences it is going to continue. Here at Rosebud we work in partnership with the tribal and federal justice system but it is a woman's choice to report. For thirty-one years we at White Buffalo Calf have focused on women helping women. Recovery from rape is not immediate and for women who believe in our traditional ceremonies they are a source of strength. The system is here to hold perpetrators accountable. We are here to support our sisters find balance again in their lives."



"We as tribal people work as relatives to help our sisters restore balance in their lives. Our traditional beliefs and ceremonies provide one path. All people however can offer greater respect for women ... particularly survivors of rape," Tillie Black Bear.

VIEW RAPE ON THE RESERVATION ONLINE



"Rape on the Reservation" was reported by "Vanguard" correspondent Mariana Van Zeller. "Vanguard" is an investigative documentary series produced by Current TV. Current TV is a media company led by former Vice President Al Gore to serve as an independent voice for a target audience of people between 18 and 34. "Rape on the Reservation" can be viewed online at:
http://current.com/shows/vanguard/92468120_rape-on-the-reservation.htm



UNNATURAL LIFEWAY

Sexualizing & Objectifying Women
 Male Entitlement And Privilege

Society/Institution

- Sexual violence normalized
- Divide & conquer
- Women restricted/fearful
- GLBT-bashing
- Reproductive health as political weapon
- Loss of culture/language
- On going colonization

Individual Behavior

- Murder
- Rape
- Sex trafficking
- Incest, molestation
- Sexual harassment
- Prostitution
- Forced sterilization and pregnancy
- Womanizing
- Divides women

BRANCHES OUTGROWTH

NATURAL LIFEWAY

Women's Sovereignty - Equality

Society/Institution

- Spiritual foundation
- Honor women's culture
- Severe sanctions for violence
- Revitalizing culture
- Sexual autonomy
- Access to healthcare
- Unrestricted reproductive health options

Individual Character

- Respect women
- Balance
- No fear/safety for women
- Responsible & safe sex
- Respect for choices
- Trust & compassion
- Honor sexual orientation
- Good health

TRUNK

UNNATURAL LIFEWAY

Victim-blaming

- Rape as weapon of war
- Rape tactic of genocide & colonization
- Boarding/mission schools
- Pornography
- Alcohol/other drugs

- Linking sex and violence
- Gender & racial stereotyping
- Gender-based socialization
- Confusing emotions with behavior (anger vs. violence)

CONTRIBUTORS

NATURAL LIFEWAY

Offender and Community Accountability

- Respectful images, thoughts, language
- Open, respectful discussion about sexuality, relationships
- Respect boundaries

- Honor personal choices
- Understand & honor our bodies
- Honor individuality and diversity

ROOT CAUSE OF

VIOLENCE IS THE BELIEF SYSTEM

- Misogyny (women-hating)
- Male privilege, entitlement & superiority
- Sexism, racism, "oppressions" justified/connected
- Female spirituality inferior/non-existent
- Women & children as property of men
- Sexual objectification of women
- Sex as a male right & entitlement
- Sex as "dirty," physical act
- Rape excusable act of sex

NON-VIOLENCE IS THE BELIEF SYSTEM

- Women are sacred, autonomous & spiritually powerful
- Equality, interdependence and freedom
- Sex as spiritual connection & experience
- Physical intimacy is spiritually powerful
- If one person is hurt, all are harmed
- People are spirits in physical bodies on individual life paths
- Rape inexcusable act of violence

ENDING *Sexual* VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN FROM THE ROOTS UP

SAVE THE DATE!

Ending Violence Against Native Women Sacred Circle Training Institute

August 23 – 27
Grand Gateway Hotel, Rapid City, SD

Renewing Your Spirit Women's Gathering Sacred Circle Training Institute

September 16 – 19
Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

National Congress of American Indians 67th Annual Convention

November 14 – 19, 2010
Albuquerque, NM

Sacred Circle

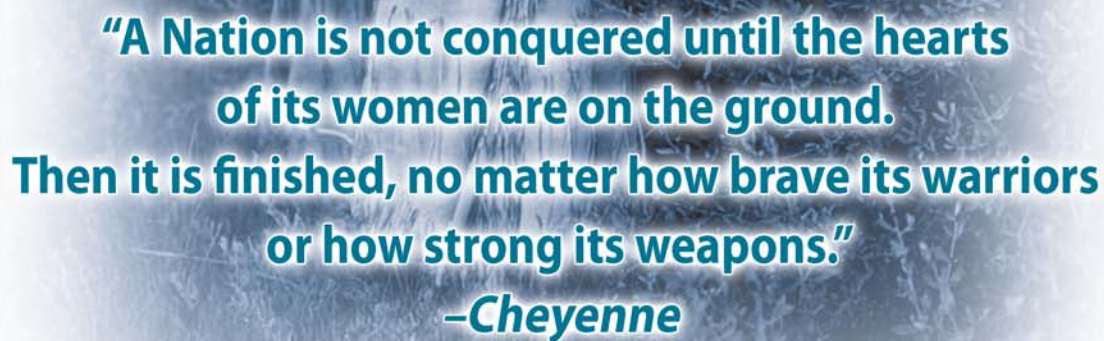
777 Deadwood Ave • Rapid City, SD 57702
1-877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) 605-341-2050
scircle@sacred-circle.com • www.sacred-circle.com

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

1516 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 466-7767, Fax: (202) 466-7797
ncai@ncai.org • www.ncai.org



"As a resistance movement we increase the safety of Native women by building a social movement across Turtle Island." Juana Majel, Co-Chair, NCAI Task Force.



**“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**



Rooted in the Plains, the mission of Sacred Circle, National Resource Center To End Violence Against Native Women, a project of Cangleska, Inc., is to change individual and institutional beliefs that justify the oppression of Native women. The work to transform tribal families and communities into a circle of balance and harmony requires individual growth and systematic responsibility.

We are dedicated to actions that promote the sovereignty and safety of women.

777 Deadwood Ave • Rapid City, SD 57702
1-877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) 605-341-2050
scircle@sacred-circle.com • www.sacred-circle.com



A project of
CANGLESKA, INC.
Serving the Oglala Lakota People

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS NOT OUR TRADITION