Tribal Grassroots Advocacy to Restore Tribal Sovereignty and Increase Native Women’s Safety

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Native women’s domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions & NIWRC organizing and advocating to end violence against women, including missing and murdered Indian women

Sept. 2016, Sacred Stone Camp
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Next slide is http://www.yupikwomen.org/news-and-updates/ywc-psa/
UNDERSTANDING
VAIW: Destruction of tribal nation leaves tribal women unprotected

DEC. 2009
HR 3326
DEFENSE APPROPRIATION ACT OF 2010 SEC. 8113

APOLOGY TO NATIVE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 8113. (a) ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APOLOGY.—The United States, acting through Congress—

(1) recognizes the special legal and political relationship Indian tribes have with the United States and the solemn covenant with the land we share;

(2) commends and honors Native Peoples for the thousands of years that they have stewarded and protected this land;

(3) recognizes that there have been years of official depredations, ill-conceived policies, and the breaking of covenants by the Federal Government regarding Indian tribes;

(4) apologizes on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples by citizens of the United States;

(5) expresses its regret for the ramifications of former wrongs and its commitment to build on the positive relationships of the past and present to move toward a brighter future where all the people of this land live reconciled as brothers and sisters, and harmoniously steward and protect this land together;

(6) urges the President to acknowledge the wrongs of the United States against Indian tribes in the history of the United States in order to bring healing to this land; and

(7) commends the State governments that have begun reconciliation efforts with recognized Indian tribes located in their boundaries and encourages all State governments similarly to work toward reconciling relationships with Indian tribes within their boundaries.
The Roots of Changes to the Law: Indigenous Worldview

- Tribal Women and nations who have stood for safety and defended the sacred roles of tribal women
  - Grandmothers
  - Mothers, Aunties
  - Sisters, Nieces
  - Daughters

VAWA Forward p. 11
Consequently, other reforms are viewed as strengthening only the federal response. For example, VAWA reauthorization bills that incorporate provisions like creating a federal penalty for violations of tribal exclusion orders, or that encourage increased federal prosecutions for gender-based violence in tribal communities, have to be viewed for how they strengthen the federal response vs. the tribal one. It’s not that these solutions do not help with respect to addressing violence, but rather that these solutions cannot be viewed as priority with regard to addressing violence in Indian country, where the long-term solution is to enhance tribal sovereignty and ensure safety for Indian women for generations to come.
Increasing the Response of Tribal Governments to Violence Against Indigenous Women
AS SOVEREIGN NATIONS, SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL WE REASSERT TRIBAL AUTHORITY TO PROTECT NATIVE WOMEN FROM HARM BECAUSE THEY'RE OUR BACKBONE, FEEDING AND CARING FOR US. – IVAN IVAN, CHIEF, AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY

- VAWA 2005, TITLE IX, Sec. 901, Finding 6:
  The unique legal relationship of the United States to Indian tribes creates a federal trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives of Indian women.

- **Addressing domestic violence requires that we focus on strengthening tribal authority and providing adequate resources to tribal governments to prevent abductions and homicides.**
How Has the Movement Accomplished the Gains - changes in laws, policies and social norms?

- **Clarity** of What is Needed to Create Change
- **Organization & Alliances** to Create Change - International and Domestic (NCAI and VAW TF)
- **Consistent Indigenous Worldview** of Sovereignty & Safety for Indian Women
- **Communication Bridge** to Inform Movement - Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women Magazine, 2003 - 2015
Resource book provides the story of the grassroots movement from the view of Indian tribes and Native women.

www.niwrc.org
Or through Amazon Smile
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