

# Restoration

OF NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND SAFETY FOR NATIVE WOMEN



**LAVETTA ELK VICTORY  
UNDER 1998 FORT  
LARAMIE TREATY**

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**VAWA LAUNCH  
REAUTHORIZATION 2011**

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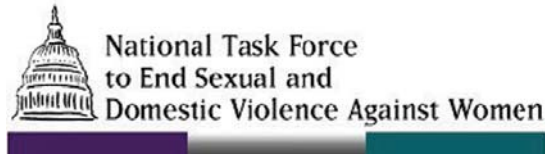
**FAMILY VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION AND  
SERVICES ACT 2009**

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**TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER  
ACT OF 2009**



**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
IS NOT TRADITIONAL**



Dear Friends,

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and we join the chorus of voices across the United States celebrating this historic victory. As a fitting tribute on April 22nd Vice President Joe Biden received the Legal Momentum Hero Award during an anniversary celebration at Georgetown University. He was recognized for authoring and championing VAWA in the Senate from the beginning and through each reauthorization. We agree with Vice President Biden's statement that he considers the act the "single most significant legislation that I've crafted during my 35-year tenure in the Senate".

From 1990 until passage of VAWA four years later in 1994, then-Senator Biden and his staff worked closely with the advocacy movement. During the campaigns to reauthorize VAWA in 2000 and 2005 he stood steadfast to introduce and lead the bill through the Congress to the President's desk for signature. For 15 years he has fought for full funding of VAWA totaling more than \$5 billion. Vice President Biden sponsored Title IX Safety for Indian Women and all of the tribal victories such as the no match requirement, the 10% set-aside for Indian tribes and tribal coalitions, the baseline study, and so many other provisions. As Native peoples we applaud Vice President Biden for his leadership to increase the safety of Native women and enhance the response of Indian tribes to violence against women. Vice President Biden, we honor and thank you!

This past month the National Task Force launched the campaign to reauthorize VAWA in 2011. Over 500 people participated in two conference calls to listen to the conveners share the process to participate in the reauthorization campaign. As the co-chairs of the NCAI Task Force we were honored to participate and speak on behalf of Native women. During the coming months committees will be formed for the various titles of VAWA and to address issues of concern. These committees will be the heart of the reauthorization campaign and we encourage you to participate and support this process. The NCAI Task Force will host conference calls, meetings and create a website over the coming months to discuss tribal issues needing to be addressed in VAWA 2011.

We invite you to join the campaign to reauthorize VAWA!

**NCAI Task Force Co-Chairs**



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



**Karen Artichoker**  
*Management Team Director*  
Cangleska, Inc.-Sacred Circle



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## SOVEREIGNTY & SAFETY MAGAZINE, 2003-2009

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. **Design:** Walt Pourier, Nakota Designs. **Production:** Coya Artichoker, Tara Azure, and Verlaine Gullickson, Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women. **Contributors:** Kirsten Matoy Carlson, Indian Law Resource Center; Tami Jerue, Alaska Native Women's Coalition.



**From the Courts**

# **LAVETTA ELK V. THE UNITED STATES 70 FED. C1. 405 1868 FORT LARAMIE TREATY'S "BAD MEN" CLAUSE**

## **Judge rules treaty obligations include reimbursement for pain and suffering**

**By Heidi Bell Gease, Rapid City Journal staff**

Thursday, April 30, 2009

In what is being called a groundbreaking decision, a federal judge has awarded nearly \$600,000 to a Wounded Knee woman who sought damages from a sexual assault under provisions of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. Lavetta Elk, now 26, is entitled to damages for pain and suffering caused when a U.S. Army recruiter sexually assaulted her in January 2003, U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Francis Allegra wrote in an opinion filed Tuesday.

Elk chose to release her name when she filed the suit. A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice said the government is reviewing the court's decision and has not yet decided whether to appeal. A spokesman declined to comment further. Because Elk is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, she is covered by the tribe's 1868 treaty with the United States. Allegra cited what is called the treaty's "bad men" clause, which states that "if bad men among the whites, or among other people subject to the authority of the United States, shall commit any wrong upon the person or property of the Indians, the United States will ... reimburse the injured person for the loss sustained."

Elk's attorney, Adam Horowitz of Miami, said treaty language had previously been assumed to cover only out-of-pocket expenses of Native Americans who had suffered injury or property



*"We are very pleased with the decision of the Court. In the negotiation of the Fort Laramie Treaty our Chiefs were concerned for the safety of our women. We encourage the Department of Justice to honor the treaty and to hold perpetrators of sexual assault against Native women accountable."*  
**Karen Artchoker.**



damage. But after researching old law dictionaries and congressional records, Horowitz was able to show that the treaty was intended to do more. "At that time (in 1868), the word 'reimburse' referred to something much broader, to 'make someone completely whole,'" he said. Horowitz said congressional records showed there was discussion as far back as 1860 about Native American women being assaulted by white men. "That was one of the wrongs that were contemplated by the treaty," he said. To his knowledge, this is the first time a personal injury case has been filed against the government seeking damages for pain and suffering under treaty rights. "It's sort of a David versus Goliath case, and David won," Horowitz said.

According to court documents, Elk met Staff Sgt. Joseph Kopf, an Army recruiter, while she was a student at Red Cloud High School. After graduating from high school in 2002, she failed a military physical examination, but Kopf told her she had passed. On Jan. 7, 2003, Kopf picked Elk up at her house, saying he would take her to Sioux Falls for another exam at the Military Entrance Processing Station. Instead, he drove to an isolated area on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, locked the car doors and began kissing her and touching her breasts against her will, trying to coerce her into having sex, according to court documents.

The U.S. Attorney's Office did not prosecute Kopf. He did, however, go through a non-judicial military proceeding, which resulted in a loss of rank from staff sergeant to sergeant, loss of military pay and removal from recruiting duties. Horowitz believes that if the decision is appealed it will be upheld -- and will open the door for more lawsuits filed by Native Americans who belong to tribes with similar treaties. "That, to me, could be the legacy of this case," he said. "An award for pain and suffering is especially significant because it really compensates them for a loss in a way that no court had previously recognized. We think it's a historic decision for Native Americans."

Allegra awarded Elk a total of \$590,755.06 for the costs of therapy and medication, past and future lost income, and pain, suffering and emotional distress. Horowitz said Elk, who is now married with children, is thrilled with the decision. "She feels vindicated and especially happy that a federal court judge of the United States ruled for her and against the United States," he said.

This article was reprinted with the permission of the author Heidi Bell Gease and the *Rapid City Journal*.

### ***The Facts Presented by Ms. Elk:***

In 2002, Lavetta Elk was 19 years old and living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Wounded Knee. U.S. Army Sergeant Joseph P. Kopf recruited Ms. Elk to join the Army. Following an evaluation by the U.S. Army in Sioux Falls, to which Kopf drove Ms. Elk, she was informed that she was admitted into the U.S. Army. Following these initial interactions, Kopf initiated direct contact with Ms. Elk on a number of occasions. Ms. Elk moved to Kansas City in August 2002 to attend school. Kopf reportedly telephoned and emailed her there, approximately three times per day. When Ms. Elk returned to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Kopf made repeated excuses to visit and call her at home. On January 7, 2003, Sergeant Kopf made an unannounced visit to her home, and told her father, Emerson Elk, that she needed to travel to Sioux Falls to resubmit her height and weight evaluation, claiming that the original evaluation had been lost. As she had before, Ms. Elk accompanied the Sergeant in his car to go to the supposed evaluation. Allegedly, Kopf instead drove Lavetta to an isolated area and sexually assaulted her. She reported the incident to the Bureau of Indian Affairs police, the Oglala Nation tribal police, and eventually the Army Recruiting Station at which Sergeant Kopf was stationed. [www.narf.org/nill/bulletins/dct/unreported/fc\\_elk.html](http://www.narf.org/nill/bulletins/dct/unreported/fc_elk.html)

***"If bad men among the whites, or among other people subject to the authority of the United States, shall commit any wrong upon the person or property of the Indians, the United States will ... reimburse the injured person for the loss sustained."***  
***Fort Laramie Treaty***



## From the Courts

# RARE RAPE CONVICTION GIVEN BY BARROW JURY

by Alex De Marban

On March 26, 2009, a Barrow judge sentenced Guy Yazzie Jr. to 10 years in prison in a case that included the community's first jury conviction for rape in about five years, said a top state attorney. Superior Court Judge Michael Jeffery handed down the sentence for Yazzie, 38, on March 12 after a jury found him guilty of second-degree sexual assault late last year.

Yazzie raped the woman, who has cerebral palsy and is partially crippled, in September 2006, the jury found. Sexual assault is prevalent in Barrow, a largely Inupiat community, but remains hidden in part because few people report it, argued Robin Koutchak, an assistant attorney general for the state. That's one reason jury convictions for rape are uncommon. In her sentencing argument, Koutchak said the rate of rape against Alaska Native women is the highest in the nation. Koutchak, a former Barrow district attorney, applauded the victim for coming forward and pressing the case, saying it's unusual for women in tight-knit rural communities to pursue a rape conviction, in part because it can tear apart families. Also, victims might suffer retaliation, she said.

Winning a jury conviction was an uphill battle. Both the victim and Yazzie were drunk when the incident occurred. In rural Alaska, a jury conviction is difficult in rape cases in part because jurors often have no sympathy for victims who have been drinking, said Koutchak.

According to the victim's testimony gathered by police, here's what happened: The victim, who was 40 at the time, had gone to visit her cousin and his partner, Yazzie. The three did shots of R&R Whiskey. The victim vomited and eventually fell asleep on the couch. She awoke to find Yazzie having sex with her and ordered him to get off. After telling a friend what happened, the victim agreed to be interviewed and agreed to testing. A DNA swab found Yazzie's sperm in her vagina, Koutchak said.

During jury selection in Barrow, "several people admitted that they did not think that this kind of rape — having sex with a woman who is incapacitated — was something that the state should pursue," Koutchak said. Finding women to serve on the jury was challenging, she said. "One of the big problems with prosecuting these rape cases in the village is that so many who would make up the jury pool have been victims of sexual assault themselves and often request to be left off the jury," she said. "That's a huge problem for us as prosecutors and it's a huge problem for the victims then too."

In the end, only one Native woman and two Native men served on the 12-member jury that found Yazzie guilty, she said. Sean Brown, a private attorney in Bethel, was the defendant's state-appointed attorney. He said Yazzie and the victim had partied together for years. Yazzie, a Navaho man from Arizona who has lived in Barrow for several years, can appeal on a number of counts if he wants, Brown said. He also pointed out that the sentence was the minimum Yazzie could have gotten. After the jury convicted Yazzie, he apologized after the judge and jury had left the courtroom, when only the lawyers were present, Koutchak said. "He looked right at (her) and said, 'I am so sorry. I know you trusted me, and I betrayed that trust and I was just so drunk I didn't know what I was doing,'" she said. "She just very quietly accepted," Koutchak said.

This article was reprinted with permission of the author Alex DeMarban and *The Artic Sounder*. <http://www.thearticsounder.com/news/show/5357>

*"The Alaska Native Women's Coalition applauds the bravery of the survivor of this crime, the assistant district attorney and all those that were involved in the forwarding of this case in order to reach a conviction. This is a step in the right direction to eliminate and bring into the open the apathy and secrecy involved in rape in many of our communities."*  
*Tami Jerue, ANWC Director.*



## 'REPUBLIC' FILES SUIT IN RAPE INQUIRY

The *Arizona Republic*, Apr. 28, 2009, by Michael Kiefer.

The *Arizona Republic* has filed suit in federal court to try to force the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to disclose records of a botched serial-rape investigation on an Indian reservation in Arizona.

In November 2008, Republic reporter Dennis Wagner wrote an investigative story about a rapist or rapists who committed as many as 15 sexual assaults in 2006 while posing as police officers on the Fort Apache Reservation in eastern Arizona. Two tribal housing security officers were arrested and subsequently exonerated - they are suing the BIA - and a third man was arrested and convicted of an unrelated rape. Wagner detailed the botched investigation by the BIA and the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department and the failure of BIA law-enforcement personnel to provide oversight or take the agency to task for its failure.

The rapist or rapists, who mostly preyed on teenage girls, have not been caught, although BIA investigators were awarded bonuses of \$1,800 for their participation in the case. The BIA said it is no longer investigating the rapes.

But since June 2008, Wagner has repeatedly asked the BIA to turn over the investigation reports, as well as employment records for the suspects and for the tribal public-safety director, who does not have peace-officer certification.

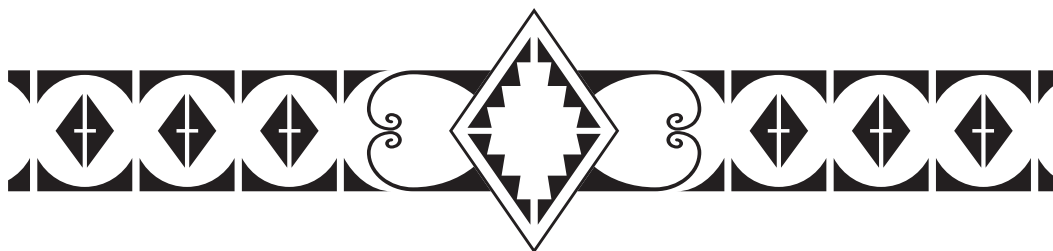
Wagner and Republic attorneys have invoked the federal Freedom of Information Act in their requests, but the BIA has refused to comply, citing "extensive privacy information about the victims, suspects, law-enforcement officers, witnesses and sources" involved in the investigation.

On March 23, attorney David Bodney filed suit in U.S. District Court on behalf of Wagner and The Republic.

"We have been incredibly patient with the BIA in our efforts to obtain records that clearly fall within the open-records law," Republic Editor Randy Lovely said. "The residents on the reservation deserve a clear accounting of how this serious case was handled, and we will continue to push the government on their behalf. The Obama administration has pledged greater transparency of government actions, and we hope they will stick to that pledge and release the documents we are seeking."

*This Article was used with permission of the Arizona Republic. Permission does not imply endorsement.*

*"The article by Michael Kiefer is indicative of the urgent and immediate need for tribes, states, and federal governments to enhance their response to sexual assault against Native women. No more can we as Native Peoples let our women and children be victims of sexual violence without doing something to stop it."*  
*Leanne Guy, Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition.*





**On the Hill**

## **VAWA 2011 Reauthorization Launched**

Efforts to begin the campaign to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act in 2011 are underway. As in the past a large coalition of organizations are in the initial stages of organizing the various committees and infrastructure to rally the grassroots movement to support reauthorization of VAWA. These efforts are anchored by many of the women that worked tirelessly and successfully reauthorized VAWA in 2000 and 2006.

### **VAWA Launch Calls are a Success!**

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women held two national conference calls to launch the VAWA 2011 reauthorization campaign. Over 250 people participated in each call. The Task Force would like to thank everyone who participated. If you did not make the call don't worry, you can hear the audio recording at your convenience. Go to [www.VAWATaskForce.org](http://www.VAWATaskForce.org) for more information. The NCAI Task Force to End Violence Against Native Women also hosted two conference calls to discuss reauthorization in the context of Indian tribes and safety for Native women.

### **Join a Committee!**


VAWA committees are now forming. Current committees include: Children/Youth; Courts/Law Enforcement; Communities of Color; Disabilities; Health; Housing; Immigration; LGBTQ; Military; Offenders; Older Victims; Prevention; Privacy/Technology; Services; Tribal; Workplace/Economic Justice; and Research.

### **Get Ready!**

The conveners of the Tribal Committee want to hear your ideas. So, start gathering your comments for the committee process and let's make this the best VAWA ever! A meeting will be held during the 2009 Women Are Sacred Conference in Oakland, CA.



**National Task Force  
to End Sexual and  
Domestic Violence Against Women**



### ***VAWA 2010 Tribal Committee Conveners:***

Karen Artichoker and Juana Majel, Co-chairs of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women; Tillie Black Bear, Executive Director of the White Buffalo Calf Women's Society; Jacqueline Agtuca and Terri Henry of Clan Star.



# Family Violence Prevention and Services Act: Funds 202 Indian Tribes

The Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA) supports the life-saving emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and programs for underserved communities provided by local domestic violence programs. Congress enacted FVPSA in 1984 in order to address public awareness and prevention of family violence and provide services for victims and their dependents. For over two decades, these programs have been the heart of our nation's response to domestic violence.

FVPSA currently supports services provided by the more than 2,000 community-based domestic violence programs and 202 Indian tribes nationwide. Over the past 30 years, shelters and local programs have evolved to provide a wide spectrum of residential and nonresidential services, which can include: shelter or transitional housing; safety planning; counseling; legal services; child care and services for children; career planning; lifeskills training; community education and public awareness; and other necessities such as clothing, food, and transportation.

Yet, shelters 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 2007, over 53,000 women, men and children received services at over 1,340 domestic violence programs nationwide. Yet, on that same day, 7,707 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of resources.

## **Legislative Action Needed to Reauthorize FVPSA!**

FVPSA expired last year threatening to halt the progress that has been made to end domestic violence and endanger 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 communities can respond with services to help victims and families fleeing abuse, yet the funding does not meet the need for services.

FVPSA is currently funded at \$127.7 million, almost \$50 million below the authorized level of \$175 million. With funding of over \$130 million, FVPSA can also provide services to children. To prevent homicides and intervene early in the lives of children, Congress must fully fund FVPSA in the FY 2010 Congressional Budget to help local programs respond to the increasing demand for services.

We are currently working with both the House and the Senate to reauthorize and fund FVPSA for year 2010 and beyond. We are making progress, but there is still much to be done and **YOU CAN HELP!** Contact your member of Congress. On May 26-29, 2009, your members of Congress will return home for a district work period. This is the perfect time for you to meet with your members of Congress in their local offices, attend one of their public functions or invite them to visit your program. Educate you members of Congress about the ways FVPSA funding helps Native women.

## ***FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS BRIEFING BOOK***

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women has prepared a FY 2010 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/fy10briefingbook.pdf>

## **Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009: Legislation to Strengthen Law & Order within Indian Tribes Introduced**

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, introduced major bi-partisan legislation on April 2nd 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 12 of this year, he held a hearing to hear tribal leaders outline their priorities, 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.”

Thirteen 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), John Kyl (R-AZ), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Lisa Murkowski (R- AK), John Thune (R-SD), John Tester (D-MT), Mark Begich ((D-AK), and Tom Udall (D-NM).





**The legislation seeks 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.

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), an extraordinary plan to invigorate our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and address the infrastructure needs of our country and economy to meet the challenges of the 21st century. President Obama inspires us as we implement his vision for the economy.

While addressing a joint session of Congress, President Obama said, “*What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more.*” Most important to the advocacy movement is that this legislation invests in the President and the Attorney General’s priority to protect the most vulnerable and victimized. Specifically, the Recovery Act provides \$225 million to five current grant programs within the Office on Violence Against Women. The following two tribal programs are funded:

\$20.8 million for the Tribal Governments Grant Program to enhance the ability of Tribes to respond to violent crimes against American Indian and Alaska Native women, enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies. Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian Tribes, their authorized designee, or a consortium consisting of two or more federally recognized Tribes.

\$2.8 million for the Tribal Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions to end violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

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## Indian Country Should Push for Adam Walsh Act Amendment


**Indian Country Today**, Editorial by Antone Minthorn

The Adam Walsh Act needs to be amended – now. The act was designed to make sex offender registration uniform across the United States. It contains many detailed and complex requirements. Those requirements are so stringent that to date no jurisdiction is compliant. While states only lose certain grant funds if they fail to comply, tribes lose their sovereignty.

Urgent action is needed to extend the time tribes have to comply with the act’s mandates. While states only lose certain grant funds if they fail to comply, tribes lose their sovereignty. Without state or tribal input, the act was passed July 27, 2006. Nonetheless, section 127 required tribes to either comply with its complex mandates or lose jurisdiction to states. It further required tribes to pass resolutions expressing their intent to comply prior to July 27, 2007 to preserve tribal authority. Given the threat of losing sovereignty, 198 tribes opted to assert jurisdiction under the act by timely passing resolutions opting in.

The National Congress of American Indians passed two resolutions calling on Congress to amend the act. Resolution 07-003 is a call for comprehensive amendments to strike provisions that would divest tribes of sovereign regulatory powers and to consult with tribal governments to determine how best to include tribal nations in the national sex offender registry. Resolution 08-028 is a more modest call for an extension of time and for technical amendments to clarify uncertain provisions and close gaps in the existing legislation. Neither request has been honored.

Tribes have been given until July 27 to “substantially comply” or lose their sovereign power to regulate sex offenders to states. That is only four months away. To date, no one is fully compliant



with the act: no state, no tribe and no territory. Adding insult to injury, the United States Department of Justice has interpreted the act to permit the loss of tribal jurisdiction to non-compliant states. States, unlike tribes, only lose grant money for non-compliance. Furthermore, DOJ has interpreted substantial compliance as requiring full compliance. Whether Congress realizes it or not, by creating such a short time frame and stringent conditions, tribes have been set up for failure. States have been required to maintain comprehensive sex offender registries since passage of the Wetterling Act in 1994 and have maintained public registries since passage of Megan's Law in 1996. Under the Adam Walsh Act, tribes are held to the same exacting requirements as states. However, most tribes, if not all, have no prior experience maintaining public sex offender registries of the act's mandatory level of complexity and have little or no resources to do so. To date, no one is fully compliant with the act: no state, no tribe and no territory.

The act's final guidelines were disseminated in July 2008. No tribe could have begun to seriously develop a compliant system until those guidelines were issued. Consequently, tribes have been given one year to develop a highly complex public sex offender registry system of the type states have been operating for well over a decade, and have been afforded little to no resources to assist them. Two one-year extensions are permitted under the act; however, DOJ is maintaining that such extensions are not going to be automatically granted on request. Tribes must show what they have done to comply in an effort to show they will be compliant at the end of the extension period. Those extension requests are due April 27 – only one month away and only 10 months after the final guidelines were issued. To date, eight tribes have been granted a one year extension– only four percent of those that have opted in, leaving 96 percent in limbo.

Indian law experts were convened by DOJ's SMART Office to help develop a template code and policy and procedures manual to assist tribes in implementing the act. These were completed in November 2008, but DOJ has yet to approve them, thereby delaying their dissemination to tribes. It is unclear if they will be approved prior to July 27, let alone the extension request deadline. (Note: DOJ has now released this information) Furthermore, DOJ has yet to fully develop a compliant national web registry for tribes to use. Operation of such a registry is required for tribes to comply with the act. This act needs to be amended immediately to extend the time for tribes to comply with its complex and detailed requirements. Many tribes may have to rely on state resources to comply. In such cases, intergovernmental agreements will have to be developed to clarify how resources and duties will be shared between states and tribes. However, many states appear to be waiting to see how others fair in implementing such a system before deciding to comply themselves. It is rumored that some will likely not implement the act due in part to the fact that they only lose grant funds that have already been significantly depleted, and the reality is that it may be more cost effective to lose the grant money than comply. Consequently, many tribes may have to wait to see what states do before they can realistically assess how they are going to implement the act's requirements. This act needs to be amended immediately to extend the time for tribes to comply with its complex and detailed requirements.

Tribes ought to be given twice the time states have had to comply, which would be 2012. In the interim, consideration should be given to needed technical amendments clarifying poorly worded language and filling in gaps left open by the current legislation due in large part to the failure of Congress to consult with tribes and states in its drafting. I urge you to write your United States senators and house representatives asking them to amend the Adam Walsh Act to allow tribes more time to comply with mandates. Letters should also be sent to Sen. Byron Dorgan and Sen. John Barrasso, chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, as well as to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy and ranking member Sen. Arlen Specter.

*Antone Minthorn is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon. Editorial Published Apr 1, 2009. Reprinted with permission of Indian Country Today. <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/opinion/42188192.html>*

## Honoring Our Sisters

# Tillie Black Bear Receives 2009 Visionary Voice Award

A member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and White Buffalo Calf Woman Society has won a national honor recognizing her work and dedication in addressing and preventing sexual violence. Tillie Black Bear, Executive Director of White Buffalo Calf Woman Society has been awarded The National Sexual Violence Resource Center's 2009 Visionary Voice Award. This award recognizes the creativity, hard work, and dedication of individuals around the country working to address and prevent sexual violence. Winners are selected by their respective state, tribal, or territory anti-sexual violence coalitions and represent a wide range of individuals doing this critical work at the local level. Karen Baker, NSVRC Director, said "April, nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is an appropriate time to acknowledge the commitment and success of these outstanding individuals."

Tillie is a member of the Sicangu Lakota Nation/Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is a founder and presently the Executive Director of the White Buffalo Calf Woman Society Shelter (Rosebud Sioux Nation). Founded in 1977 it is the oldest shelter on an Indian reservation in the United States. She is a founding mother of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and of the South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Tillie is the first Native Woman to chair the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. *Congratulations Tillie!*



# Roberta “Rob” Valente Honored with NCAI Leadership Award

On March 3 the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the largest and oldest national Indian organization, honored leaders in Indian policy at its 11th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet during the organization’s Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C. Honorees received recognition for their outstanding service to Native people and their ongoing support of initiatives that promote sovereignty and government-to-government relationships. “There are many friends and partners of NCAI that work hard to support tribes and protect our sovereignty,” said NCAI President Joe A. Garcia. “Today we honor those who have gone the extra mile to support the efforts of tribal communities, and thank them for their unwavering dedication to Indian Country.”



Rob Valente received the NCAI Public Sector Leadership Award in appreciation of her work to end domestic violence for all women, and in particular for standing with Indian women in the fight for additional resources and authority to bring safety and justice to Native communities.

“I am truly honored to receive this award. I thank President Garcia, the Board and the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Indian Women for their kindness and their hard work. The members of the Task Force have been my teachers and dear friends in seeking justice for Indian and Alaska Native women who have suffered sexual and domestic violence. Together, we must continue to work to make sure tribes’ sovereignty is recognized to address these and other crimes. I know you join me in looking forward to the day when tribal courts will exercise full jurisdiction to address the wrongs done to members of their tribes, a day when tribal ways of life will be respected by all non-Indians, and Indian and Alaska Native women will be honored as they deserve to be.”

Rob serves as General Counsel to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, providing legal advice and analysis on issues in the domestic violence field, with specialized interests in protection order enforcement, child custody issues, federal laws and interventions addressing domestic violence, and tribal issues relating to domestic violence. Rob served as a consultant for the Alaska Native Women’s Coalition, working with tribal programs on legal issues relating to violence against Alaska Native women. Rob also worked with members of the National Congress of American Indians’ Task Force on Violence Against Indian Women on the Tribal Title of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 and on an amicus brief in the *Long Family v. Plains Commerce Bank* before the U.S. Supreme Court.

## In The News

# Navajo Police Report Rape, Domestic Violence Cases up in 2008:

In statistics provided by the Navajo Nation's Division of Public Safety violent crime was down slightly on the Navajo Reservation last year, but rape and domestic violence continues to be a major problem. Tribal police investigated 829 cases of violent crime in 2008, compared to 863 cases in 2007. The most frequent violent crime committed in 2008 was rape, with 300 reported in 2008 as compared to 328 in 2007. That's an average of six rapes per week. Police officials said that the great majority of rapes occur within a family or among friends with most of them connected either directly or indirectly with alcohol abuse. Only a handful of cases were reported where the victim did not know the identity of her attacker. Most of the rapes reported are not prosecuted, the records show. By the end of 2008, only 25 of the 300 reported rape cases resulted in an arrest, although some of the cases were still under investigation at the end of the year. Six of the cases involved juveniles. And cases of domestic violence, which is not categorized as a violent crime by Navajo Nation police, almost doubled from 2007 to 2008. Police reported 6,121 cases in 2008, compared to 3,535 in 2007. As reported by Bill Donovan in the NavajoTimes.com <http://www.navajotimes.com/news/2009/0309/032609crimeup.php>

# Homicide One of the Leading Causes of Death for Native Women.

A new FBI report about the Yakama Indian Reservation comes as no surprise to experts on violence against women. The FBI investigated the deaths of 16 women dating back to the 1980s. The new report concludes they were not slain by a serial killer, but many of those cases remain unsolved. As NPR Correspondent Anna King reports, one of the leading causes of death for Native American women is homicide. Data recently released from National Centers for Disease Control shows homicide as the 9th leading cause of death for native women from ages 1 to 65. And for certain age groups, that number goes up. Jacqueline Agtuca is the Director of Public Policy with a tribal nonprofit group called Clan Star. It promotes the safety of native women. She says few murders, rapes and assaults lead to convictions on Indian reservations across the country. Agtuca says she's hoping 16 deaths on the Yakama Reservation will prompt tribal and federal officials to respond more quickly to violence against native women. Agtuca: "Until we have that response on a national level from the federal government who handles these cases, we are not going to see a decline." U.S. Attorney Jim McDevitt in Spokane says many of the unsolved cases on the Yakama Reservation are so old that little evidence remains, but they won't be closed. As reported by Anna King of the Northwest Network in Richland, WA. [www.NWNNewsNetwork.org](http://www.NWNNewsNetwork.org)





## Implementation of the Adam Walsh Act.

Unregistered sex offenders were once considered untouchable if they made it on an Indian reservation. But tribal leaders and the U.S. Marshal Service agency have worked hard to change that. Authorities called it a loophole and it has put children on tribal land in danger for years. “In the past there was an opportunity for sex offenders to failure to register on an Indian reservation possibly unknown by the public there,” said the U.S. Marshal’s Dan Orr. But that changed in July 2006. “The Adam Walsh Act removed that barrier,” said Orr. The Walsh Act gives the U.S Marshal Service and tribal governments the tools they need to go after non-compliant offenders in Indian country. The Marshal Service honored members of the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Peck Tribes for their hard work in educating families and rounding people up. “They can feel confident in the fact sex offenders in their community are going to be located, they’re going to be identified, and be prosecuted if they don’t follow the law,” said Orr. To date the marshals have prosecuted 31 sex offenders and credit the men and women from the reservations for the success in cleaning up their communities. The Marshals have also helped the Crow and Fort Peck Tribes set up registries and are in the process of setting one up for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. As reported by Nick Lough. Multimedia?Watch The Video BILLINGS – <http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/44566157.html>

## USDOJ Template for Tribal Sex Offender Registry Code.

The Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART) recently released a Template Tribal Sex Offender Registry Code/Ordinance for use by tribes in complying with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The document is intended to serve only as a template and to provide information that each tribe should consider as it determines how to comply with SORNA. Tribes need not pass this code/ordinance in order to comply with SORNA. However, this document does state what is required for compliance with SORNA. The document also includes notes intended to provoke tribal leaders to consider other relevant issues as they meet to discuss any potential code/ordinance development. A copy of the template can be found at: [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/pdfs/MTSOR\\_Code.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/pdfs/MTSOR_Code.pdf)



## FBI Highway Serial Killings Initiative

In 2004, an analyst from the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation detected a crime pattern: the bodies of murdered women were being dumped along the Interstate 40 corridor in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi. The analyst and a police colleague from the Grapevine, Texas Police Department referred these cases to the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program, or ViCAP, where analysts looked at other records in the FBI database to see if there were similar patterns of highway killings elsewhere. Turns out there were. So the FBI launched an extensive effort to support state and local partners with open investigations into highway murders.



Recently, the FBI publicly announced a Highway Serial Killings initiative to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and the general public about this issue and its unique assistance on these cases. The victims in these cases are primarily women who are living high-risk, transient lifestyles, often involving substance abuse and prostitution. They're frequently picked up at truck stops or service stations and sexually assaulted, murdered, and dumped along a highway. The suspects are predominantly long-haul truck drivers. But the mobile nature of the offenders, the unsafe lifestyles of the victims, the significant distances and multiple jurisdictions involved, and the scarcity of witnesses or forensic evidence can make these cases tough to solve.

Enter ViCAP, part of our National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime and a national repository for violent crimes. The database, which contains information on homicides, sexual assaults, missing persons, and unidentified human remains, is available to law enforcement throughout the country over a secure Internet link on our Law Enforcement Online (LEO). ViCAP analysts have created a national matrix of more than 500 murder victims from along or near highways, as well as a list of some 200 potential suspects. ViCAP, though, is only as good as the data it contains, so the FBI ask law enforcement agencies to make sure they submit to us their cases involving murders and other violent crimes taking place on or near highways.

Is the Highway Serial Killings initiative solving cases? The FBI responds yes. So far, at least 10 suspects believed responsible for some 30 homicides have been placed in custody, including a trucker arrested in Tennessee charged with four murders and a trucker charged with one murder in Massachusetts and another in New Jersey. But what about the case that started it all, the series of murdered women being dumped along the Interstate 40 corridor in Oklahoma and three other states? Two people who were working together have been charged with some of the murders and the investigation to tie them to others continues.

[http://www.fbi.gov/page2/april09/highwayserialkillings\\_040609.html](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/april09/highwayserialkillings_040609.html)



## International Efforts

# Native Women File Brief before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

In November 2008, the Indian Law Resource Center submitted an amicus brief on behalf of Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women and twenty-one other women's organizations and tribes in the first domestic violence case against the United States in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Gonzales v. United States of America*. The *Gonzales* case challenges a United States Supreme Court decision denying women the right to have domestic violence protection orders enforced by state law enforcement.

Sacred Circle and its allies decided to file an amicus brief because the case has vast implications on the rights of Native women. Even though the case did not occur in Indian country and does not involve a tribal protection order, it prevents Indian women from having tribal protection orders enforced by state law enforcement officials. The brief educates the Commission about the epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assault against Indian women in the United States. It explains the particularly harmful impact of the *Gonzales* decision, which endangers the lives of Indian women and leaves them without effective judicial recourse against their abusers. It also reiterates that the United States has failed to fulfill its obligations under the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man to prevent violence against women.

Jacqueline Agtuca, Policy Director of Clan Star, Inc., shared a copy of the brief with the petitioner in the case, Jessica Gonzales Lanahan. Ms. Lanahan, who herself identifies as Native American and Latina, expressed her appreciation of Native women participating in her case. The Inter-American Commission has yet to issue an opinion in the case.



*Jessica Gonzales Lanahan with counsel at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.*

*"[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).*

*“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*

## International Efforts

# NCAI Task Force Creates Subcommittee on International Advocacy

The NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Native Women overwhelmingly voted to create a new subcommittee on international advocacy when it met in March. The subcommittee will develop and execute a strategy to raise the issue of violence against Native women at the United Nations and other human rights bodies that can investigate and make recommendations about how the United States should respond to the problem. Adding pressure on the United States from the international human rights community will aid in the reduction of violence against Native women by encouraging government officials to address the problem.

The international work is important because often the most successful strategies combine advocacy at the local and international levels. The subcommittee plans to create a website with detailed information on international human right bodies and documents relating to women. It will highlight how international law can be used to advocate for the protection of Native women. Members of the subcommittee will also give presentations on using international law to advocate for better protections for Native women at the Women Are Sacred Conference in Oakland, California on June 12-14, 2009.



*UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples James Anaya with Tim Coulter of the Indian Law Resource Center and Jacqueline Agtuca and Terri Henry of Clan Star.*

# SACRED CIRCLE TRAINING 2009

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN TRAINING INSTITUTE

SEPT 21-25 Rapid City, SD

### HOTEL INFORMATION

#### GRAND GATEWAY HOTEL

1721 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, SD 57709

Phone: 1-605-342-8853

Reservations: 1-866-742-1300

Rate: \$89.00 standard – Group Code: Sacred Circle

Airport Shuttle: Hotel provides complimentary Airport Shuttle

*NOTE: Special registration fee for returning registrants: \$250.00 - We are extending a special discount rate for those who have previously attended the Sacred Circle Training Institute and wish to **only** attend the **workshop portion** of the Institute and do not wish to attend the plenary sessions again. Full registration fee will be required to attend the entire 5-day Institute.*

### DESCRIPTION

The Ending Violence Against Native Women Training Institute provides a strong foundation for advocates and their allies to work effectively with their own programs and within a coordinated response. The Institute begins with a two day plenary session to build a shared understanding of the shared dynamics of violence against native women and highlights coordinated community response initiatives. The last 3 days you will attend one of the five workshops offered and closing ceremony.

#### Plenary Topics include:

- Historical and Cultural Roots: Colonization & Violence Against Women
- Internalized Oppression
- Battering: Definition & Dynamics
- Federal Laws Impacting Native Women
- Effective Coordinated Tribal Community Response

*The last three days, you will choose one of these five break-out workshops to attend:*

- Role of Law Enforcement Workshop: Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence.
- Role of Battersers' Program Workshop: Battersers' Re-Education Program Facilitation.
- Role of Criminal Justice System Workshop: Tribal Court and Prosecution Response to Domestic Violence.
- Role of Advocates Workshop: Advocating for Women who have been Battered/Raped and their Children.
- Sexual Violence in the Lives of Native Women.

### REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee: \$350 before March 6  
\$450 on/after March 7

Registration Fee: \$350 before August 20  
\$450 on/after August 21

### FACILITATORS

- Karen Artchoker** – Management Team Director, Cangleska, Inc. Director, Sacred Circle  
**Brenda Hill** – Education Coordinator, Sacred Circle  
**BJ Jones** – Chief Judge, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe  
**George Twiss** – Management Team Director, Cangleska, Inc.  
**Wayne Weston** – Men's Program Coordinator, Cangleska, Inc.  
**Elena Giacci** – Anti-Sexual Violence Specialist, Sacred Circle

If this is your first time attending the Institute, please consider attending the Role of Advocates workshop first to gain an integral understanding of effective response to violence against native women and appropriate relationships with women who are battered. Men are encouraged to attend the Role of Battersers' Program workshop to best understand their role as men in ending violence against women.

#### Details:

- On-site registration begins on Sunday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM and at 7:30 AM on Monday.
- Plenary sessions begin at 8:30 AM on Monday & Tuesday.
- Break-out workshops will begin on Wednesday at 8:30 AM and end at 12:00 PM Friday followed by a luncheon and the closing ceremony.
- Closing ceremony will begin at 1:30 PM and end at 2:30 on Friday. Certificates will be distributed only at the closing ceremony. PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST THAT YOUR CERTIFICATE BE MAILED. Participants must attend all sessions to receive a certificate.
- There will be luncheons on the second and last days of the Institute.
- Please bring a copy of your tribal domestic violence code, law enforcement and/or prosecution policies and procedures.

Visit us at [www.sacred-circle.com](http://www.sacred-circle.com)



produced by  
**SACRED CIRCLE**  
 National Resource Center to End Violence  
 Against Native Women



## UNNATURAL LIFEWAY

Sexualizing & Objectifying Women  
 Male Entitlement And Privilege

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Society/Institution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual violence normalized</li> <li>• Divide &amp; conquer</li> <li>• Women restricted/fearful</li> <li>• GLBT-bashing</li> <li>• Reproductive health as political weapon</li> <li>• Loss of culture/language</li> <li>• On going colonization</li> </ul> | <b>Individual Behavior</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murder</li> <li>• Rape</li> <li>• Sex trafficking</li> <li>• Incest, molestation</li> <li>• Sexual harassment</li> <li>• Prostitution</li> <li>• Forced sterilization and pregnancy</li> <li>• Womanizing</li> <li>• Divides women</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

# BRANCHES OUTGROWTH

## NATURAL LIFEWAY

Women's Sovereignty - Equality

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Society/Institution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritual foundation</li> <li>• Honor women's culture</li> <li>• Severe sanctions for violence</li> <li>• Revitalizing culture</li> <li>• Sexual autonomy</li> <li>• Access to healthcare</li> <li>• Unrestricted reproductive health options</li> </ul> | <b>Individual Character</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect women</li> <li>• Balance</li> <li>• No fear/safety for women</li> <li>• Responsible &amp; safe sex</li> <li>• Respect for choices</li> <li>• Trust &amp; compassion</li> <li>• Honor sexual orientation</li> <li>• Good health</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

# TRUNK

## UNNATURAL LIFEWAY

Victim-blaming

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rape as weapon of war</li> <li>• Rape tactic of genocide &amp; colonization</li> <li>• Boarding/mission schools</li> <li>• Pornography</li> <li>• Alcohol/other drugs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linking sex and violence</li> <li>• Gender &amp; racial stereotyping</li> <li>• Gender-based socialization</li> <li>• Confusing emotions with behavior (anger vs. violence)</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## CONTRIBUTORS

## NATURAL LIFEWAY

Offender and Community Accountability

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respectful images, thoughts, language</li> <li>• Open, respectful discussion about sexuality, relationships</li> <li>• Respect boundaries</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honor personal choices</li> <li>• Understand &amp; honor our bodies</li> <li>• Honor individuality and diversity</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

# 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

Sacred Circle - 722 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701 • 1-877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) • PH: (605) 341-2050 • FAX: (605) 341-2472 • scircle@sacred-circle.com • www.sacred-circle.com

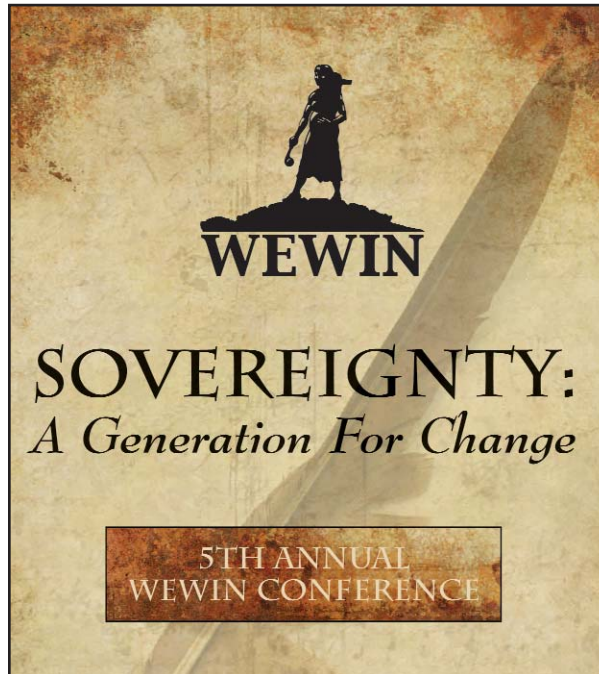
# SAVE THE DATE!

## WEWIN

### Fifth Annual Conference

Friday, July 31 -  
Sunday, August 2, 2009

Radisson Fort McDowell  
Resort & Casino  
10438 North  
Forth McDowell Road  
Scottsdale/Fountain Hills, AZ  
85264



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## The Red Crystal Gala

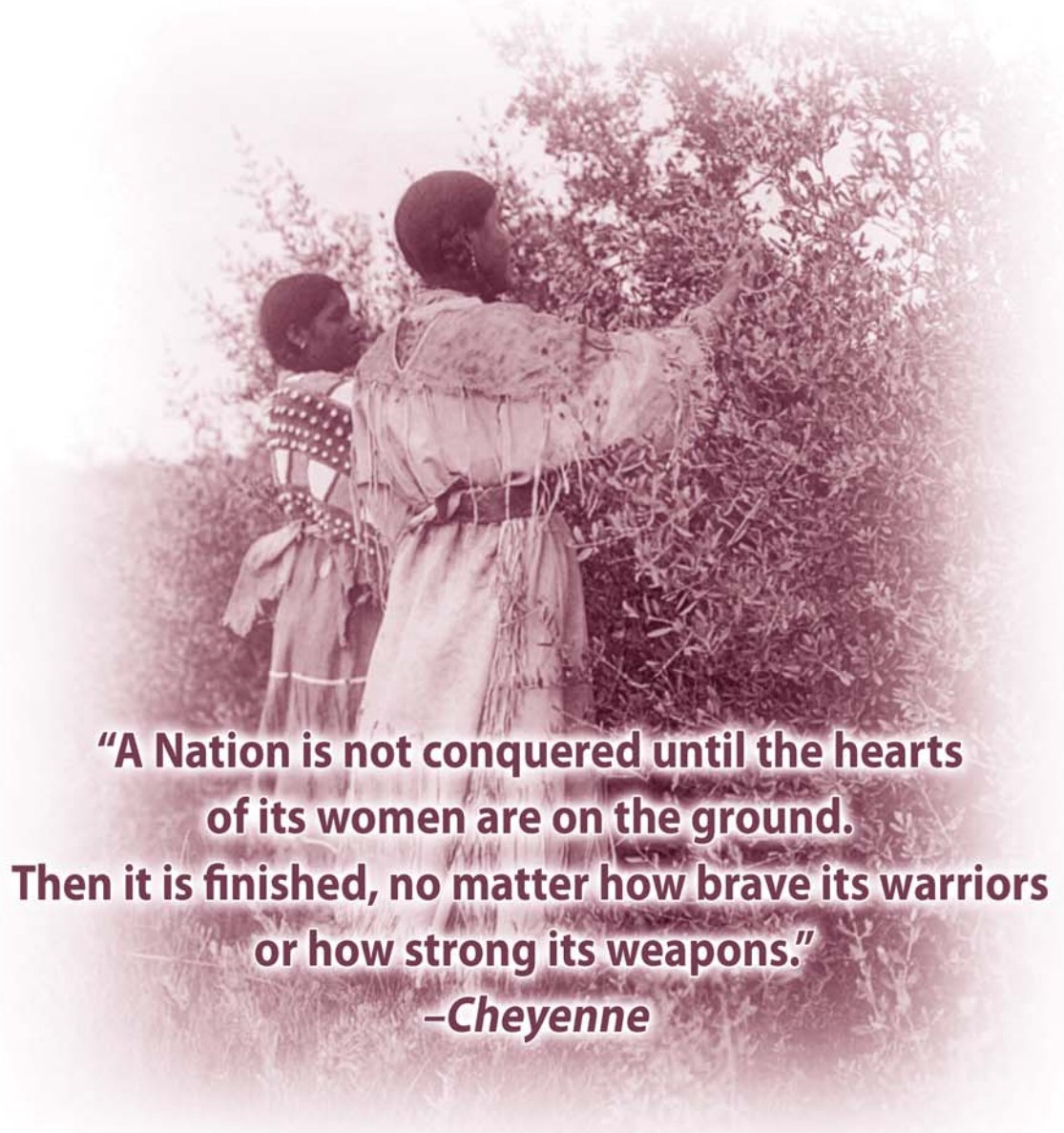
4 national fundraisers to be held the same weekend in support of Native women's advocacy organizations:

**Red Crystal Charity Golf Tournament** - April 16, 2010  
Whirlwind Golf Course, Gila River, Phoenix, AZ

**Red Crystal Charity Ball** - April 17, 2010  
Talking Stick Resort, Scottsdale, AZ

**Red Crystal Charity Motorcycle Poker Run** - April 18, 2010  
Ft. McDowell Casino/Resort

Please call Maryanne Canales for any questions - 231-301-0887



**“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.***

722 St. Joseph Street • Rapid City, SD 57701  
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**