Sexual Violence & the Native American Population

"One of the things my parents taught me, and I'll always be grateful as a gift, is to not ever let anybody else define me; that for me to define myself... Look forward. Turn what has been done into a better path."

~Wilma Mankiller, Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2018

A section of the bill protects Native American women by:
- improving tribal access to federal crime databases
- improving the response of missing and murdered women
- reaffirming tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence, stalking, and trafficking for all federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives

This reauthorization bill was first introduced on July 26, 2018 by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX).

The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2018 is impacted by the federal budget. Please contact your representatives for support of the reauthorization of this bill.

White Buffalo Calf Woman
(Pte-San-Win)

A sacred woman of supernatural origin

Seven Sacred Ceremonies:
- *Inipi*: Lakota for "sweat lodge;" also means "to live within." Purification ceremony to help the vision quest keeper enter into a state of humility and undergo spiritual rebirth.
- *Hanbleceya*: Releasing of Spirit; undertaking a vision quest in an isolated area, primarily without food or water, in order to achieve a goal.
- *Wiwanke Wachipi*: The Sun Dance; A time of renewal for the tribe, people, and the earth.
- *Hunkapi*: The Making of a Relative; To make peace between the Lakota and the Ree people. You can also become part of a *Tiyospae*—extended family by birth, marriage, or hunkapi.
- *Isanti Awicaliwanpi*: Womanhood; preparing girls to become women and having kids.
- *Tapa Wankaye Yapi*: The Throwing of the Ball; Throwing the ball at every direction shows that Wakan Tanka ("The Great Spirit") is everywhere.
- *Nagi Gluhapi*: Releasing of Spirit; This ceremony has a buffalo hunt and construction of a special lodge.

Source: Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women

Contact your Tribal Office for Programs and Services. Visit USD Center for Disabilities Oyate' Circle:
https://www.usd.edu/medicine/center-for-disabilities/oyate-circle
More than 1 in 2 Native American women have experienced sexual violence.

According to the South Dakota Attorney General’s Office, 25% of Native Americans in South Dakota have been a victim of rape sometime in their life.

The CDC reports that 45% of Native American men will have experienced rape, stalking, and/or physical violence by an intimate partner.

With less access to law enforcement, many cases of sexual violence in Native American reservations are not reported nor investigated.

Who are the Perpetrators?

Sexual Assaults against the Native American community are committed by...

- Stranger: 41%
- Acquaintance: 34%
- Intimate Partner/Family Member: 25%

Resources:

2) Congress.gov; H.R.6545 115th Congress; 2017-2018
5) "Fact Sheet: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2018." House Committee on the Judiciary: Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler
8) "Seven Lakota Rites." Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center-Chamberlain, SD; 8th, Jan. 2019.
9) "Power and Control Triangle." Published in ‘Violence Against Native Women is not Traditional,” Developed by Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women-Rapid City, SD. 2012.

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For more information and programs available in your community please contact the Oyate Circle at USD Center for Disabilities at 605-357-1439 or your local Tribal office.