Native Americans in Philanthropy

Investing to Prevent and End All Forms of Violence Against Native Women and Girls

A Legacy of Violence Against Native Women

According to many researchers, “violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights issues. It is also one of the most visible, as it takes place in public view, within the family and at the hands of strangers and it affects women in every country in the world.” Indigenous peoples in the USA face deeply entrenched marginalization – the result of a long history of systematic and pervasive abuse and persecution. Sexual violence against Indigenous women today is informed and conditioned by this legacy of widespread and egregious human rights abuses.

An international study by UNFPA provides clear evidence that indigenous girls, adolescents and young women have a higher prevalence of violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and harassment, and are more vulnerable to sexual violence than any other group of women. It also underscores that violence against indigenous women is interwoven with the historical legacies of colonization, environmental degradation, economic deprivation, limited access to health care, and limited access to justice systems.

Violence against indigenous girls, adolescents and women cannot be separated from the wider contexts of discrimination and exclusion to which indigenous peoples as a whole are often exposed in social, economic, cultural and political life.1

The Need

NAP acknowledge the importance of regularly collecting more in depth and regular data for developing effective policy solutions for pressing issues affecting Native communities in rural and urban areas. Consequently, there are several major tasks that lie ahead for philanthropic giving in need of additional support. NAP seeks to raise awareness and invest in solutions for the following areas.

- Prevention: Prevent all types of violence from occurring against Native women and children
- Awareness: Raise awareness of the types of violence in their lifetime.
- Empowerment: Empower Native women, adolescents, girls and their communities and nations.
- Other: Other.

Inequitable Reality

Native women have to overcome more challenges to have an equal chance at life’s opportunities free from violence in comparison to all other racial groups of women in the United States. Nationally, Native American women make up the group with the highest poverty rate, they are among the least likely to be enrolled at a college or technical school, and are among the lowest rates of high school graduation. They are the most vulnerable and at highest risk to experience different forms of violence in their lifetime.

Poverty Rate

33.3% of Native American women and girls live below the poverty line.

Investment Opportunities to Impact Violence Against Native Women and Girls

A holistic approach to impact violence must aim to empower Native women, adolescents, girls and their communities and nations.

- Prevention: Prevent all types of violence from occurring against Native women and children.
- Awareness: Raise awareness of the types of violence in their lifetime.
- Empower: Empower Native women, adolescents, girls and children to ensure increase in education, health care and income levels.
- Data and Policy: Collection of in depth and regular data for developing effective policy solutions to end violence against Native women and children.

1 http://www.unfpa.org/resources/breaking-silence-violence-against-indigenous-girls-adolescents-and-young-women#sthash.Mmj4gCDm.dpuf
2 Native American Women Have Experienced Multiple Forms of Violence in Their Lifetime.
4 Native American Women Have Experienced Multiple Forms of Violence in Their Lifetime.