

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

SWIWCONNECTIONS

WALKING WITH HONOR AND RESPECT

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Greetings from Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition

This year is near end and it has gone too fast, agree? The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) has had a busy few months conducting training, participating in October events, and meeting great and fantastic people who also strive to address and respond to domestic violence and sexual assault in tribal communities. As we continue our journey, we wish you a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Save the Date!

2016 REGIONAL TRAININGS

February 3 & 4

Peach Springs, AZ

February 17 & 18

Parker, AZ

**APRIL 26-28,
2016 Statewide
Conference**

Mesa, Arizona

More information
coming soon.

Training for service providers

Go to www.swiwc.org for more information.





HIGHLIGHT PROGRAM

WALKING THE HEALING PATH, INC

Healing Domestic Violence Through Awareness & Education

Founded in 2003 by John L. Tsosie and Ernest Tsosie, Jr. A Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program, located in Window Rock, Arizona

Walking The Healing Path's (WTHP) mission and vision is to one day see individual & communities unite as one and commit not only to seek but to create solutions to end domestic violence and child abuse/neglect in the many homes and families that make up not only the Navajo Nation but the entire U.S. as a whole.

Through personal testimonies WTHP provides awareness, motivation, inspiration and first-hand accounts of the impact violence and substance abuse has on a family and more importantly on children. WTHP also shares how they overcame hardships to become integral allies to living healthy and violence free lives.

Since its inception WTHP have completed five walks totaling over 2000 miles, provided awareness presentations to countless individuals throughout the Southwest & have attained national/international recognition of their work. They are proof that anything is possible through the powers of commitment, faith & family!

Project Peace Train:

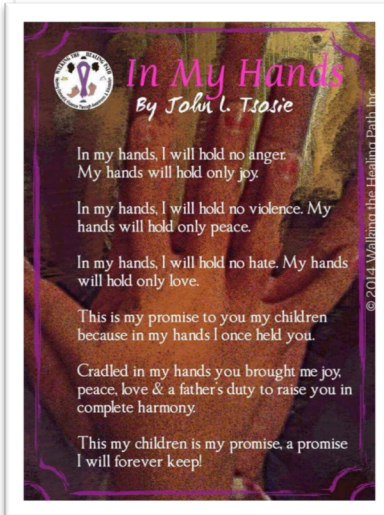
Project Peace Train (PPT) was created as a means to bring awareness to our youth to discuss the dangers of domestic violence, bullying, sexual abuse, suicide, teen dating violence, and substance abuse in hopes of preventing these ills from further affecting the lives of our future generations.

PPT is the first endeavor of its kind and is offered with the help of notable entertainers and professionals such as: Ernest David Tsosie, III, James Junes, Adrienne Plenty-Holes, Reginald Mitchell, Tito Hoover, Christina Wilson & Nikki Garcia to schools and communities through out Indian Country and Alaska Native communities.

For more information and booking for your event, please contact:

www.facebook.com/wthptoenddv;

www.facebook.com/projectpeachetrain





“Humanizing Our Response to Violence in Our Communities: Being Inclusive, Coordinated, and Accountable”

Among the White Mountain pine trees and crisp air, SWIWC held a two-day regional training in Pine-Top for the White Mountain Apache tribe and neighboring tribes of San Carlos, Camp Verde and Tonto Apache.

Training was for service providers who work with victims of domestic violence & sexual assault and those who wanted to learn more about the topic areas. In attendance was Indian Health Care workers, Prosecutors, Advocates, Shelter Programs, Youth Programs, Social Workers, Behavioral Health workers, and Law Enforcement. The title and theme of this regional: *Humanizing Our Response to Violence in Our Communities: Being Inclusive, Coordinated, And Accountable* was developed with the purpose

of being inclusive of all victims of crime including the LGBTQ community and bridging the gap in services for them; providing information on coordination that should occur between programs to enhance the safety of Native women and children, and lastly, providing information on implementing accountability of those who harm to ensure justice for victims/survivors. The bottom-line being that the voices of victims/survivors is heard, believed, and that their safety is paramount.

Look for 2016 Regionals in your area. Coming soon are Regionals in Parker and Peach Springs, Arizona.

Thank you!

Abby Joplin, Kurt Begaye, Lynnette Grey Bull, and Lorena T. Halwood

For providing outstanding information in your presentations! And a huge thanks you to all who attended and made this a successful training!



OCTOBER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

“Nation-to-Nation....Walking Together Towards A Violence Free Future”

Walking the Healing Path

SWIWC participated in several statewide Tribal events through the month of October. The first event was Walking the Healing Path's *Journey to Hopi Nation*. SWIWC joined the Navajo Nation leadership, and others including a delegation from the Hopi Nation at the kick-off and starting point of the 104-mile journey. We walked 3 miles and provided blessings and prayers to John, Ernie, and Kateri to continue their journey.



Speak UP, Speak OUT, Say SOMETHING

For the next 7 days John and Kateri documented their journey through social media, and with the help of several family, friends and programs they completed their walk on October 21st. Miss Hopi Nation, Hopi Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse, SWIWC, and the Hopi community honored their courage and strength in ending their 104 mile journey and most importantly providing awareness of domestic violence.

It Is Your Business, STOP Domestic Violence!

It was precious to see the relief in Loretta Tsosie; wife, mother and grandmother of Ernie, John and Kateri as they walked the last few steps of their journey--knowing that her loved ones were in good health and safe. Loretta is aware of the importance of their journey and always supports their efforts. In fact, as Ernie often describes in his testimony (as Loretta's former abuser) it is she, Loretta, who built a strong foundation of forgiveness and love, which helped him and in return led him to want to bring awareness of domestic violence to Tribal communities. If he can get help and change, so can others!



“Take A Stand To End Domestic Violence”

Gila River Crime Victims Services

John and Ernie are preparing for their next Nation-to-Nation Journey, from Window Rock, Arizona to Whiteriver, Arizona. Look out for more information coming in 2016.

THANK YOU John, Ernie and Kateri, for your courage and strength!



“Weaving a Web of Support for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault”

In welcoming Walking the Healing Path's Journey to Hopi Nation, SWIWC also participated in our sister coalition, Hopi Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse's (HTWCTEA), Domestic Violence Conference as well as providing a program booth for two days. It was great to hear youth continue to value their tradition and language. SWIWC and HTWCTEA stand together in the movement to end domestic and sexual violence in our tribal communities.

SWIWC also attended the Chemehuevi Indian Tribes Domestic Violence Conference near Lake Havasu. They addressed the importance to recognizing that substance abuse is NOT the cause of domestic violence. Often time's abusers think substance abuse is the cause of their violence. **Bottom Line: There is never an excuse for domestic violence, no matter what!**

SWIWC also joined and provided a program booth for Gila River's *Domestic Violence Awareness Take A Stand* conference. A walk was held in conjunction with the conference and over 100 community members joined! The conference provided program booths relating to health care, domestic violence, public safety, and many more. It was a good conference with courageous speakers sharing their testimonies as well as programs sharing their information on how to seek help and delivering the message that, “You're are not alone, we are here to help”.

This month has been very eventful for SWIWC; we connected with lasting partners to continue to work in ending violence against our Native women, children and tribal communities.



New and lasting partners!

Walking The Healing Path, Inc. –

Contact: jltosie@yahoo.com

Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition To End Abuse –

Contact: htwceacoalition@yahoo.com

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe- Drop-In Center

Contact: recp.dropin@cit-nsn.gov

Gila River Crime Victims Services

Contact: 520-562-4106



OUR FUTURE GENERATION: INDIGENOUS FEMINISM RISING



Left to Right: Mariah Gachupin, Monica Maes, Denyce White, Kiley Guy, Marquel Begay, and Juana Castillo



Indigenous Feminism Rising (IFR) is a newly formed RSO group at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado; however IFR operates as a collective.

Currently, the group is made up of women from different tribal affiliations and majors. Monica Maes created IFR in April 2015.

IFR seeks to educate others and themselves on environmental issues, violence against Indigenous women and two-spirited community, and injustices Tribal Nations often face.

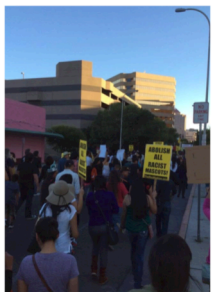
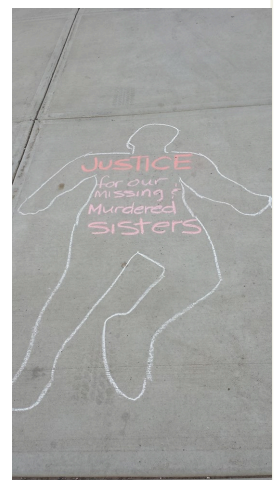
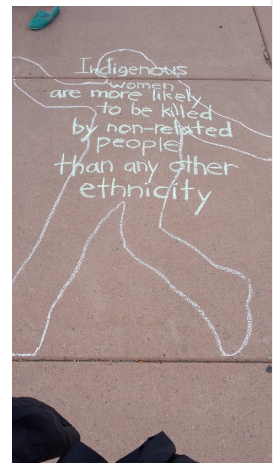
Some of members have participated in:

- The Indigenous Peoples Day March and Rally in Albuquerque, NM
- Collaborated with different clubs on a Water Benefit festival for the families affected by the Gold King Mine spill.
- Collaboration with the Native American Center in promoting Dr. Joely Proudfit's campaign "*Beyond the Stereotypes*" presentation.
- Donated food for the Real History of the Americas event.
- The Nihigaal Bee Iina (Journey for Our Existence) walk.
- October Domestic Violence Awareness Month by posting quotes through out campus such as: "Honor Our Earth, Honor Our Women", IFR believes that both the earth and women go hand in hand.
- Culturally, IFR harvested Sumac berries, learn to bead and to quill. These times of learning crafts are spent sharing knowledge, stories, food and most importantly laughing together.

As for future events, IFR is working on fundraising to attend conferences.

It is not required for anyone interested in joining, to be of Native American descents. IFR encourages and welcomes others to participate in events and attend meetings.

Look out for upcoming blogs and for contact go to their Facebook page:
INDIGENOUS FEMINISM RISING





JANUARY IS STALKING AWARENESS MONTH:

- ✓ 7.5 million people are stalked one year in U.S
- ✓ The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know
- ✓ 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.
- ✓ Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases
- ✓ 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next

For more information: www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org

FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH:

1 in 3 young people will experience some form of abuse in their dating relationships.

Understanding the warning signs is key to ending the cycle of abuse:

- ✓ Excessive jealousy
- ✓ Constant checking in with you or making you check in with him/her.
- ✓ Attempts to isolate you from friends and family
- ✓ Is too serious about the relationship quickly.
- ✓ Has had a lot of bad prior relationships
- ✓ Controlling, blaming, pressure of sexual activity

If you're experiencing abuse, contact:

National Break the Cycle

1-866-331-9474

Text: "loveis" to 22522

Chat at <http://loveisrespect.org>

February is:

Break the Cycle

**TEEN
DATING
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH**



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**Have a Safe and
Happy Holiday Season**



Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition



@swiwc_4



SWIWC

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