



WALKING WITH HONOR AND RESPECT

## Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition

SACRED WE ARE

FALL 2016

**NO MORE**  
TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### WELCOME FALL!

The Fall weather in the Phoenix area is beautiful! In this area we don't see the changes of colors in trees, but we experience the awesome temperatures!

The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) has been on the move in working with local tribal communities for October Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We have attended various presentations in Gila River Indian Community and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. SWIWC was honored to work with Lt. Governor Antone of Gila River Indian Community in presenting at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference – "Working Together in Addressing Domestic and Sexual Violence in Arizona Tribal Communities". As we continue to address safety, healing and justice for our Native women, we encourage you all to look into what October events occurred in your area and join the movement to end violence.

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Tohdenasshai  
Committee Against  
Family Abuse

LGBTQ Advisory  
Council:

Havasupai Regional  
Training:

October Domestic  
Violence Awareness  
Month:

Upcoming Events:

The Tohdenasshai Committee Against Family Abuse (TCAFA) was established in 1982 after a few local residents took action to face the growing problem of domestic violence in the small community of Kayenta, Arizona. They helped abused women and children and seek a safe place to stay with volunteers willing to open their homes as temporary shelters. They also gathered donations of food, clothes, and basic hygiene products to supplement their stays.

Presently, we are a non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status that operates 24-hours, 365 days a year and we are the only 24-hour domestic violence shelter facility on the Navajo Reservation. We are happy to announce that as of July 18, 2016, we have finally moved into our new facility! The new facility is in an enclosed area that consists of three buildings: Administration, Day Care and Residential, but only the administration and residential buildings are being utilized at this time. The administrative building has two offices, a kitchen consisting of industrial-sized appliances, a dining hall and counseling/meeting areas. The residential building consists of an office, laundry facility and emergency shelter units that provides enough space for thirty individuals. This has increased our intake from eight individuals to thirty, with an additional



## HIGHLIGHT PROGRAM:

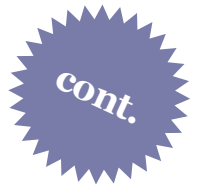
### The Tohdenasshai Committee Against Family Abuse (TCAFA)



**The Tohdenasshai Committee Against Family Abuse (TCAFA)**

## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE!

The Tohdenasshai Committee Against Family Abuse is entering its 35th year of operation in 2017 by providing exceptional services to individuals and families affected by domestic violence. We may be located in a rural area on the Navajo reservation that is comparable in size to the state of Rhode Island and we face limited resources on a daily basis, but our main concern is providing much needed supportive services to victims.



15-20 spaces pending once the remaining seven rooms are cleared for occupancy. Although we have moved to our new facility, our location still cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality and safety.

Our shelter provides services to women, men, and children whom are experiencing domestic and/or sexual assault. Although, a significant portion of clients served are Navajos, we also provide services to non-Navajos and non-Natives. This past year, we have seen an increase of male and transgender clients entering our program, as well as sexual assault victims. At this time, we have seven full-time and one part-time TCAFA staffs, as well as one staff attorney assigned by DNA Legal Aid Services to assist our clients with legal civil issues.

As a result of Shiprock Shelter's closure this past year, our service area coverage has increased to include Teec Nos Pos and Red Mesa, in collaboration with ADABI of Chinle and Shiprock Police Department. Other areas are Oljato, Dennehotso, Chilchinbeto, Rough Rock, Pinon, Tonalea, Inscription House, Navajo Mountain and Kayenta. However, there are individuals and families from communities or towns, in-state and out-of-state, such as Window Rock, Phoenix, Winslow, Page, Farmington, Denver, Albuquerque, and Salt Lake City, who seek shelter services in Kayenta.

**For more informaiton please contact:**  
**Elsie Smallcanyon, Acting Shelter Director**  
**PH: 928-697-3635**

## OTHER SERVICES:

- 1.** Supportive individual and group counseling for adults and children, as well as life skills development, all based on the Duluth Empowerment Model.
- 2.** Outreach Program for those seeking comparable shelter services – but not entering the shelter facility.
- 3.** Accessible Crisis Hotline- Shelter staffs provide 24-hour crisis intervention, referral and advocacy.
- 4.** ADA Compatible with wheelchair accessibilities  
Security – on site camera system.
- 5.** Transportation: is offered but within limited distance and per staff availability.

Staff is available 24/7 for shelter services to listen and validate their experience.



# SWIWC's LGBTQ ADVISORY COUNCIL

## SWIWC's LGBTQ Advisory Council Members Visit Hualapai Tribe

Vanessa (Co-chair) and Trudie (member) both presented at the Hualapai LGBT Conference on October 20 & 21, 2016 in Peach Spring, Arizona. Vanessa highlighted her personal story from childhood to adulthood, while focusing on the impact of violence against American Indian transgender women. She shares heartbreaking stories of friends she has lost due to violence within the Phoenix metropolitan area including her childhood friend. One highlight of her presentation is a slide that read, "The average life of a transgender woman of color is 35 years old." Educating one mind at a time of the importance of addressing violence inflicted against transgender women.

A visit to Grand Canyon West to the Skywalk was the highlight of an educational event.



Trudie shared her presentation, "Transgender Sensitivity Training for Law Enforcement Personnel" that was focused on providers working in detention facilities and police officers. Her presentation was an eye-opener from using proper pronouns, housing accommodations, and hormone replacement therapy for transgender inmates while in custody. One recommendation for any facility is the inclusion of a "transgender" box on intake forms that includes medical assessment forms.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference, Trudie shared her personal story of making unwisely choices and overcoming obstacles, while making a 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt at college.

Trudie joined Vanessa to visit the Skywalk, but her body language shows that heights are scary to her and still made the attempt to walk on the Skywalk despite her fears. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the Skywalk.

## SWIWC's LGBTQ Advisory Council Members Upcoming Events

**SWIWC's LGBTQ Advisory Council** will be presenting at the *15th National Indian Nations Conference Justice for Victims of Crime's Pre-Conference Institute* on **December 7, 2015** from 9:00 am -4:30 pm.

### ***"Victimization Issues within the Native Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, and Two Spirit Community"***

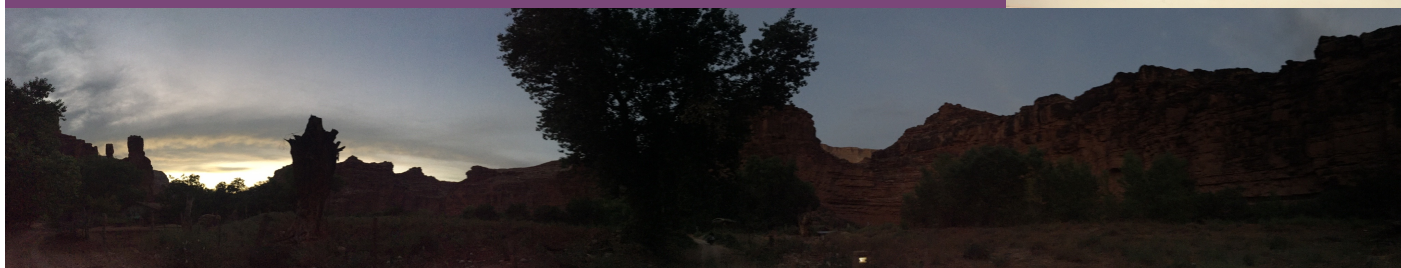
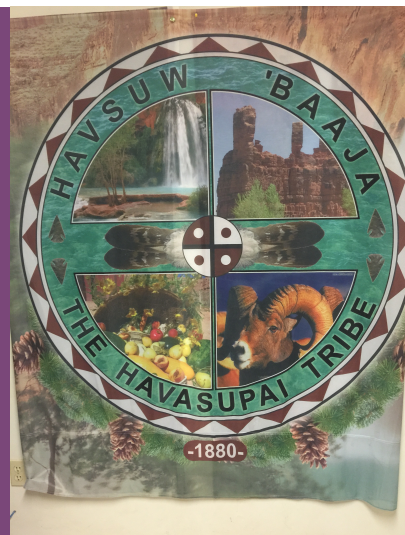
Description: This pre-conference is designed for service providers to be more responsive and inclusive of providing effective tribal victim services to native Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender (LGBT) and Two (2S) individuals. This session will include presentations and small group actives on LGBT/2S victim violence, policy development and change, best practices and LGBT/2S victim resources.



# HAVASUPAI REGIONAL TRAINING

July 26 & 27, 2016

Supai, Arizona

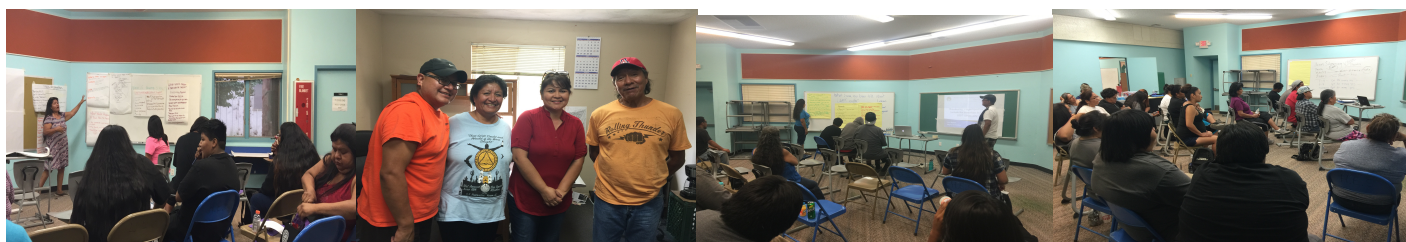


The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition along with two faculty members, Kurt Begaye and Caroline F. Antone presented to the community and service providers of the Havasuapi Tribe on domestic/sexual violence, teen dating violence, coordinated community response, working with the LGBTQ community, Young Men Are Sacred, and elder abuse. This was such a heartfelt experience that we soon hope to visit and provide training again.

The Havasupai Tribe, Havasuw "Baaja, the people of the blue green waters, are the traditional guardians of the Grand Canyon. To enter the community you either hike or fly down via helicopter. The population is 639 with land width of 188,077 acres. It is most known for the beautiful blue waterfalls.

The community showed much respect and was very much interested in talking about their strengths, growth, healing, awareness and prevention of violence in their community. We were also able to speak to directors regarding their ideas in expanding prevention and awareness as well as making plans to begin support groups for youth, women and men; coordinate evening activities for youth, and ways to begin communication between the young leaders and the precious elders/teachers of the community to continue culture and traditions.

As we know it is our youth who are our next generation and it is our Elders who teaches our culture, traditional values, and importance of respecting, loving and caring for relatives so that communities can continue to hopefully end the cycle of violence not only to our women, but also among our children, and men. The support of Tribal leadership is also imperative, to continue the stance of living violence free in tribal communities. Look for future Regional Trainings in 2017.







# UPCOMING EVENTS

## The Monument Quilt:

The Monument Quilt is traveling to the West coast. SWIWC has been asked by The Monument Quilt organizers to partner with them to bring the quilt display to Arizona, which is slated for April 2017.

This will be a one-day event to include speakers, informational booths, the quilt display and other activities to bring awareness of sexual violence, and the need for safety, justice, and healing for our tribal communities.

“The Monument Quilt is a National event, which was showcased in Washington DC – Supreme Court, and hosted by other states. It’s a growing collection of over 1,500 stories from survivors of rape and abuse. Written, stitched and painted onto red fabric, these stories come together in large displays to create and demand public hearing space for survivors. The quilt has toured 22 U.S cities since its inception, the quilt is building a new culture where survivors are publicly supported, rather than publicly shamed.

The Monument Quilt mobilizes survivors to stand together, resisting a one-dimensional narrative about how rape abuse happens, and who it affects. Quilt displays can be spaces for healing, resistance, raising visibility, a call to action or protest.” [www.themonumentquilt.org](http://www.themonumentquilt.org)

**More information  
coming soon!!**

Save the Date:  
April 21, 2017  
ASU CAMPUS  
TEMPE, AZ



SWIWC'S Quilt Square



Ariel view of the quilt display in  
Baltimore, MD



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## *By Invitation Only* **Tribal and Federal Advocates Roundtable**



The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition will be hosting an Advocates Sexual Violence/Sex Trafficking Round Table that will be facilitated by the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition.

***More information coming soon***

**Save the Date:  
January 19, 2017**



**Fort McDowell  
Yavapai Nation**

# Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition

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Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition



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