



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 14

"NEED TO EXPAND TRAINING AND EDUCATION ON SAFETY FOR INDIAN WOMEN DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE AMONG NORTHWEST TRIBES"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, under the Violence Against Women Act, the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) was created in 1995 to administer financial and technical assistance to communities in developing programs, policies and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Office of Violence Against Women has undertaken a special initiative in response to areas of special need, dedicating resources to developing enhancements in areas requiring particular attention or in communities facing acute challenges; and

WHEREAS, to enhance the response of tribal and federal agencies to the high rates of sexual assault committed against Indian women, the Safety of Indian Women from Sexual Assault Offenders Demonstration Initiative was established by the U.S. Department of Justice Office, and

WHEREAS, under this recent initiative OVW has worked with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute to provide technical assistance to four tribally funded sites, including the training of personnel handling of sexual assault crimes and the development of policies and educational materials specific to each tribe's language, values, customs and traditions; and

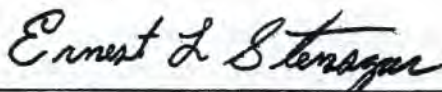
WHEREAS, over several years, some Northwest Tribes and communities have experienced a high rate of unsolved sexual assault crimes involving Native women who have been murdered or missing over a period of time and remaining families, children and communities have never had any resolution; and

WHEREAS, the acute challenges of location in rural, remote and in some cases unincorporated reservation communities and lack of adequately trained law enforcement and community education to address the maize of jurisdictional issues among tribal, state and federal agencies is essential for family and community resolution; now

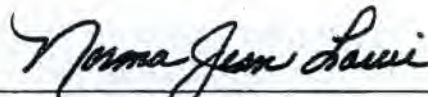
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians advocate the expansion of the Safety for Indian Women from Sexual Assault Offenders Demonstration Initiative to include and fund at least two new Northwest Tribes and communities.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary