

INDIAN LAW RESOURCE CENTER

CENTRO DE RECURSOS JURÍDICOS PARA LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS

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Recommendations Offered at the 18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
During the Side Event on
***Violence Against Indigenous Women in the United States:
How Indigenous Nations and Women are leading the movement to end the epidemic
of violence in Indian country and Alaska Native villages***
(April 24, 2019)

Cosponsored by the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, Indian Law Resource Center,
National Congress of American Indians, and National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a significant affirmation of indigenous women's rights, urging states to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous women and children and, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to protect indigenous women and children against violence and discrimination. Even so, there are concrete measure this Permanent Forum can take to support and further this work. To this end, we recommend that the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

1. Request that the UN adopt new rules to improve the ability of indigenous peoples' representative institutions, including tribal and village governments, to participate within the UN in meetings on matters affecting them and to be recognized and respected as rights-holders and global actors.
2. Request that the Economic and Social Council approve an International Expert Group Meeting at the earliest possible date to:
 - a. Draw attention to ongoing issues of human trafficking, impunity, and the failure of police and justice systems to respond to cases of missing and murdered indigenous women;
 - b. Promote an exchange of information on human trafficking and the prevalence, causes, and responses to missing and murdered indigenous women;
 - c. Analyze relevant human rights standards; and
 - d. Identify strategies to address this issue, including jurisdictional reforms, the strengthening of indigenous peoples' representative institutions and organizations, and the building of indigenous women's and girls' capacity to advocate for their own human rights.