

# ACCELERATING EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE AMERICAS



Tami Truett Jerue, Executive Director

*The Alaska Native Women's Resource Center*



# Introducing Tami



Tami Truett Jerue, citizen of the Anvik Tribe. As Executive Director of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC), Tami brought 40 years of direct services experience to this journey, beginning with the formation of AKNWRC in 2015. Tami joined a group of Alaska Native women passionate about ending interpersonal violence across Alaska, Tami and the now Board of Directors, believe interpersonal violence is a result of colonization and has no place in native culture. Ms. Jerue has testified before Congress and the United Nations bringing attention to the disproportionate rates of violence experienced by Alaska Native women and the lack of resources faced by tribes. Under Tami's management, the AKNWRC has become a voice for Alaska Native issues, particularly affecting women, children and families, telling truths to promote understanding, building partnerships, and most importantly supporting Alaska Native tribes as they tackle the complex issues of interpersonal violence.

Ms. Jerue, has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and master's work in Community Psychology. She worked for over 28 years for the Anvik Tribal Council in Tribal Administration, Indian Child Protection, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) and Counseling/Advocacy. She is married to Carl Jerue, Jr. of Anvik sharing 4 beautiful children and 6 grandchildren.



# About AKNWRC

Since 2015, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center has been dedicated to strengthening local, tribal government's responses through community organizing efforts advocating for the safety of women and children in their communities and homes, especially against domestic and sexual abuse and violence.

AKNWRC board members are Alaska Native women raised in Alaska Native Villages and have over 141 years of combined experience governments, nonprofit management, domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy, and other social service experience.

## Our Mission

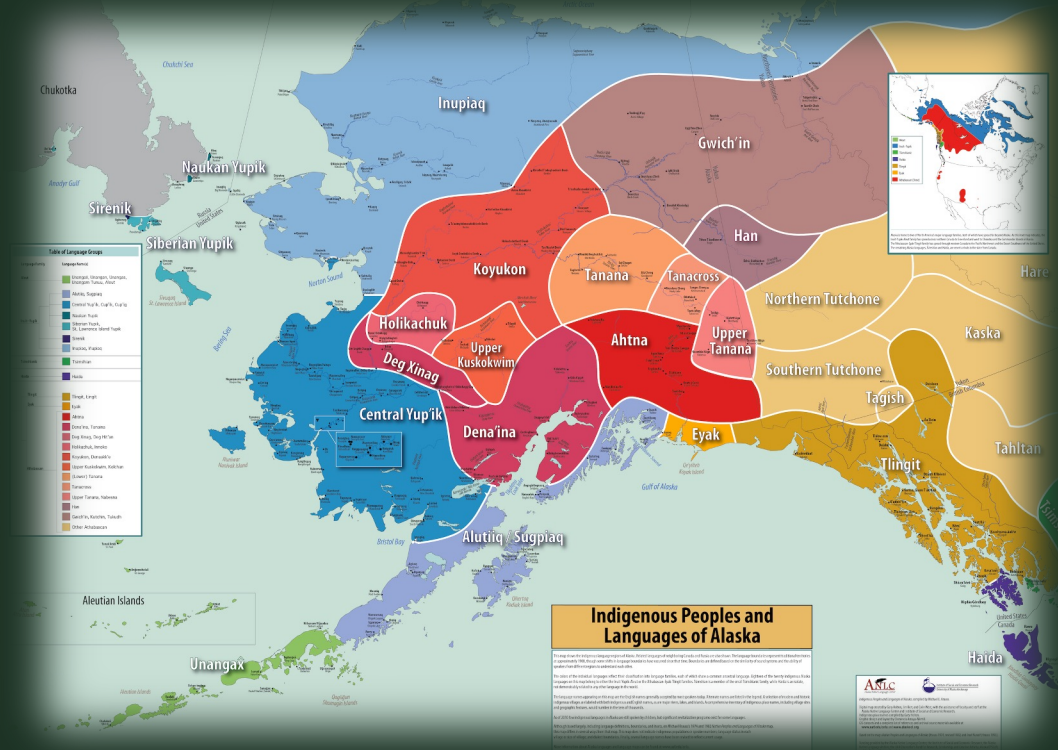
The Alaska Native Women's Resource Center envisions our Tribal women, communities and families free from violence, healing the trauma and utilizing the wisdom of our ancestors to create effective community/Tribal responses to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, trafficking, sexual assault, and related injustices.



# Alaska



- Largest state of the United States – more than **TWO TIMES** the size of France and more than **SEVEN TIMES** larger than the United Kingdom
- Home to 229 of the United State's 574 federally recognized Tribes - more than 40% of our nation's Tribes call Alaska home
- Culturally diverse - 15 percent of Alaska's 730,000 residents are Alaska Native, with 20 distinct cultures and 300 different dialects
- 86% of Alaska Native Villages live off-road systems



# Disproportionality of Victimization for Alaska Native People



- Alaska Native women are overrepresented in the domestic violence population by 250 % - *Violence Against Women Act of 2022*
- In the State of Alaska, Alaska Native women comprise 19% of the population but make up 47% of reported rape victims in the State, *Violence Against Women Act of 2022*
- As compared to the population of other Indian Tribes, Alaska Native women suffer the *highest rates* of domestic and sexual violence, *Violence Against Women Act of 2022*
- 80% of Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) women will experience violence in their lifetimes - *Rosay, 2016*
- 55.6% of Alaska's sexual assault victims are AN/AI people - *DPS 2018*
- AN/AI people twice as likely to be victims of homicide - *AJiC 2020*



# *Guardians of the Land: Alaska Native Peoples as Stewards of the Earth*



- Since time immemorial, Alaska Native peoples have inhabited and thrived in some of the most remote and pristine lands on Earth
- We are experiencing record-melting ice and disappearing shorelines in Alaska
- Climate change has created an increase in environmental hazards
- 86% of Alaska Native Villages live off-road systems



# *Climate Injustice: Disproportionate Impacts on Alaska Native Peoples*



- Impacts of climate change are disproportionately borne by those who have contributed the least to the problem – Alaska Natives
- The land is the foundation of our cultural identity, spiritual beliefs, and social cohesion
- As ancestral lands become uninhabitable due to environmental degradation, Alaska Native women find themselves disproportionately affected



# *Environmental Stressor and Gender-Based Violence*



- Climate change disrupts ecosystems and exacerbates pre-existing social tensions
- The land is the foundation of our cultural identity, spiritual beliefs, and social cohesion
- As ancestral lands become uninhabitable due to environmental degradation, Alaska Native women find themselves disproportionately affected





# *Interconnected Solutions*



- Addressing violence against Alaska Native women require a multi-faceted and intersectional approach
- Governments and institutions must prioritize the needs and rights of Alaska Native women in climate adaptation and disaster response efforts



# *Our Recommendations...*



1. We request that the Secretary-General
  - a. issue a report on violence against indigenous women in the context of climate change with recommendations for future actions, and
  - b. convene a high-level panel on intensifying efforts, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and indigenous women, to prevent and eliminate violence and discrimination against indigenous women in the context of climate change, and with consideration of the interconnections between securing safety for indigenous women, securing indigenous land rights, and securing global climate justice.



# *Our Recommendations...*



2. We urge the OHCHR include in their report recommendations that direct the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be directed to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of Indigenous women and children in the context of climate change, including monitoring states' measures to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2014 Outcome Document to the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to ensure indigenous women and children enjoy protection against all forms of violence and discrimination



# *Our Recommendations...*



3. We recommend that relevant special procedures be urged to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by indigenous women in the context of climate change by periodically requesting special, and perhaps joint, reports on the topic.

# ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



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Mosiy' Mahsi' Igamsiqanaghalek Quyanapqak Tsin'aen  
**Qağaasakung**  
Hai Maasee Quyanana Dogidinh Tsin'ee  
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Doykshin T'oyaxsut 'nüün Dogidinh Quyanapqak Doykshin Quyanapqak  
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