

# Indigenous Women’s Movements to End Violence Against American Indian, Alaska Native, and Aboriginal Women

March 22, 2016 at 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

UN Church Center Chapel

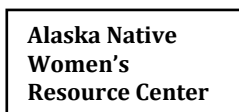
777 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. at E. 44<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York City, NY



## Together We Are Stronger

Indigenous women worldwide suffer from multiple forms of discrimination and violence, and murder, at rates far higher than other groups of women. Speakers from American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and Canadian First Nations will share best practices indigenous women have used to organize and advocate for social changes and legal reforms to restore safety in their Native nations and communities. They also will share strategies to advance the rights of indigenous peoples and women affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## Join Us



# Indigenous Women’s Movements to End Violence Against American Indian, Alaska Native, and Aboriginal Women

## Program

### Welcome

**Panel Moderator: Jacqueline (Jax) Agtuca**

Legal and Policy Consultant, National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center

**Ending the Violence, Organizing for Safety**

Seneca-Cayuga filmmaker Erica Tremblay and producer Kasia Chmielinski premiere their short documentary about the Native women’s movement in the United States.

### Panel

#### **Building the National Movement for Safety and Sovereignty in the United States**

**Terri Henry**

Co-Chair National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women and Chair of the Indian Law Resource Center Board of Directors

#### **Safety for Alaska Native Women**

**Tamra (Tami) Truett Jerue**

Director Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center and Tribal Administrator and Director of Social Services for the Anvik Village Tribal Council

#### **Movement for Justice and Accountability for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

**Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Ph.D.**

President Native Women’s Association of Canada



# Biographies



**Jacqueline (Jax) Agtuca, J.D.**, Cherokee, is a public policy consultant to the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. Jacqueline has dedicated her legal career to enhancing protections for women in tribal, state, federal, and international arenas. She joined the USDOJ Violence Against Women Office, then served as Deputy Director of its Office of Tribal Justice, and also was the Public Policy Director of Clan Star, Inc., a tribal non-profit dedicated to strengthening the sovereignty of Indian tribes and safety of indigenous women. Jacqueline has engaged in international advocacy for the safety of Native women within the UN, including the universal periodic review of the U.S., the

Commission on the Status of Women, and World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. She participated in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' first thematic hearing on violence against American Indian women. Jacqueline is a policy advisor for the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women and editor of the *Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women* magazine. She authored *Sharing Our Stories of Survival* (2007) and *Safety for Native Women: VAWA and American Indian Tribes* (2014). In 2015, the American Bar Association awarded Jacqueline a *Vision 20/20 Award* for the important work accomplished by VAWA.



**Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Ph.D.**, is a proud Anishinaabe woman from Wikwemikong First Nation of Manitoulin Island in northern Ontario. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Jeannette Corbiere-Lavell (former President of NWAC and acclaimed advocate for Indigenous women's rights), Lavell-Harvard was elected President of the Native Women's Association of Canada at their 41st Annual General Assembly on July 2015 in Montreal, QC. Lavell-Harvard holds a Doctorate in education, and was recognized as the first Indigenous Trudeau Scholar in 2003 through her examination of the experiences of the few Indigenous peoples who have successfully completed a post-secondary education – defining appropriate directions for educational restructuring in Canada. Following her initial election as Youth

Director in 1994, Lavell-Harvard worked tirelessly to advance the rights of Indigenous women and girls as the President of the Ontario Native Women's Association for over a decade. She later co-edited the original volume of *Until Our Hearts Are on the Ground: Aboriginal Mothering, Oppression, Resistance and Rebirth*, and co-authored the book *Mothers of the Nations*. Lavell-Harvard is a full-time mother to three young girls.



**Terri Henry** is Longhair Clan of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a resident of the Painttown Community of the Qualla Boundary. She is a founding member and Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women. In this capacity she worked tirelessly to build the national movement to re-authorize VAWA 2005 and 2013. Ms. Henry was elected to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council for three terms from 2009 to 2015 representing the Painttown Community. In 2013, Terri was elected by her Tribal Council peers to be the first Tribal Council Chairwoman. Terri played a leading role as a member of the USDOJ Violence Against Women Office to direct policies and

programs for over 250 American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages. Through Terri's leadership, the first Native based federal programming to address violence against Native women became a reality. Programming under her direction recognized the sovereignty of Indian tribes and the principles of self-determination. Terri returned home to Cherokee, North Carolina to found the Qualla Women's Justice Alliance in 1999 and Clan Star, Inc. in 2001. Ms. Henry has also served her Tribe as the Director of Public Safety and as an Associate Justice of the Cherokee Supreme Court. Terri is the Chair of the Indian Law Resource Center Board of Directors.



**Tamra (Tami) Truett Jerue** lives in Anvik, Alaska, a small Athabascan community on the Yukon River. She is the mother of four children and the grandmother of four. She currently is the Director of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and works for the Anvik Tribal Council as the Tribal Administrator/Director of Social Services. Ms. Truett Jerue has worked in the field of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for the last 30 years in various capacities. Her education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Community Psychology, and Secondary Education. She has been involved with many non-profit boards over the years and has worked most of her professional life in rural Alaska in many

capacities such as therapist, sexual assault counselor, teacher, tribal administrator, ICWA social worker, and trainer. Tami's many experiences and those of her family and friends with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault have kept her passionate about helping to facilitate change at a community level, within systems, and in families to help survivors live a violence free life.

# Co-sponsoring Organizations

## Alaska Native Women's Resource Center

Organized in 2015, the **Alaska Native Women's Resource Center** (AKNWRC) is a tribal nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against women with Alaska's 229 tribes and allied organizations. AKNWRC board members are Alaska Native women raised in Alaska Native Villages and have 141 years of combined experience in tribal governments, nonprofit management, domestic violence, and sexual assault advocacy (both individual crisis and systems and grassroots social change advocacy at the local, statewide, regional, national and international levels), and other social service experience. AKNWRC's philosophy is that violence against women is rooted in the colonization of indigenous nations.



Founded in 1978 by American Indians, the **Indian Law Resource Center** (ILRC) is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to indigenous peoples of the Americas to combat racism and oppression, to protect their lands and environment, to protect their cultures, to achieve sustainable economic development and genuine self-government, and to realize their other human rights. Its Safe Women, Strong Nation's project works with indigenous women's organizations and Native nations to end violence against indigenous women. ILRC is in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. ([www.indianlaw.org](http://www.indianlaw.org)).



The **National Congress of American Indians** (NCAI) is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, and is dedicated to ending the epidemic of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. In 2003, NCAI created the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women to address and coordinate an organized response to national policy issues regarding violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. NCAI is in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. ([www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)).



The **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc.** (NIWRC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure the safety of Native women by protecting and preserving the inherent sovereign authority of American Indian and Alaska Native nations to respond to domestic violence and sexual assault. NIWRC's Board consists of Native women leaders from American Indian and Alaska Native nations across the United States. NIWRC is a national resource center for Indian nations providing technical assistance, policy development, training, materials, resource information, and the development of tribal strategies and responses to end the violence. In 2015, NIWRC launched the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Sovereignty Initiative to defend the constitutionality and functionality of all VAWA tribal provisions. ([www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org)).



The **Native Women's Association of Canada** (NWAC) is founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations and Métis women within First Nation, Métis and Canadian societies. NWAC is an aggregate of thirteen Native women's organizations from across Canada and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1974. Much like a "Grandmother's Lodge," we as aunts, mothers, sisters, brothers and relatives collectively recognize, respect, promote, defend and enhance our Native ancestral laws, spiritual beliefs, language and traditions given to us by the Creator. (<http://www.nwac.ca/>)

**Supporting Organizations:** Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women; Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition; Montana Native Women's Coalition; Native Women's Coalition; Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition; Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Inc.; Uniting Three Fires Against Violence; and Wabanaki Women's Coalition