

# Indigenous Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda



"Empowerment Through Dialogue," a historical three-day meeting was held in Pierre, South Dakota, on May 16th, 17th, and 18th, 1990. The efforts resulted in an Agenda for Native\* Women's Reproductive Justice. The Agenda was updated in 2000 and again in 2020.

UPDATED ON 7/31/2020

---

Indigenous women are leaders in asserting human rights as we protect our families, Native lifeways and lands. Indigenous women and two-spirit people have the right to live free from violence and to address the reproductive justice issues that we face through the process of self-determination in order to respect and restore our Indigenous life ways.

1. The right to knowledge and education for all family members concerning sexuality and reproduction that is age-, culture-, and gender-appropriate.
2. The right to all reproductive alternatives and the right to choose the size of our families.
3. The right to affordable health care, including safe deliveries within our communities.
4. The right to access safe, free, and/or affordable abortions, regardless of age, with confidentiality and free pre- and post-counseling.
5. The right to unlimited access to pharmaceuticals, technology, emergency contraceptives and over the counter (OTC) progestin only (POP) birth control pills, and mental health services to address the reproductive justice issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and HIV/AIDS.
6. The right to immediate access and collection of forensic evidence, including but not limited to a rape kit, and the timely processing of all forensic evidence to address the reproductive justice issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and HIV/AIDS.
7. The right to programs which meet the nutritional needs of women and families.
8. The right to programs to reduce the rate of infant mortality and high-risk pregnancies.
9. The right to culturally specific comprehensive chemical dependency prenatal programs including, but not limited to, prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effects.
10. The right to stop coerced sterilization.
11. The right to be fully informed about, and to consent to any forms of medical treatment in Indigenous languages, accessible to deaf and limited English proficiency peoples.
12. The right to determine who are members of our Nations.
13. The right to continuous, consistent, readily accessible quality health care and fair distribution of medical aid or equipment not to be withheld in any circumstances, including in times of emergencies, disasters and pandemics.
14. The right to reproductive justice and support for disabled women and two-spirited peoples
15. The right to parent our children in a non-sexist, non-racist environment.
16. The right of two-spirit people, their partners, and their families to live free from persecution or discrimination based on their sexuality, gender identity and/or gender expressions, and to enjoy the same human, political, social, and mental health rights, and access to hormonal & fertility therapies, health services, legal, economic, religious, tribal and governmental rights and benefits.
17. The right to give birth and be attended to in the setting most appropriate, be it home, community, clinic or hospital and to be able to choose the support system for our births, including but not limited to, Traditional Midwives, Families and community members.
18. The right to education and support for breastfeeding that include, but not limited to individuals and communities that support revitalization of traditional nurturing and parenting of our children.
19. To support MMIW and all other M&M Indigenous Peoples with cross-jurisdictional dignity, with rights to due process, timely and robust investigations by law enforcement entities into the cause of a murder or homicide and to be provided equal protection under the law.
20. The right to ensure due process, protection of human rights and supportive services to meet the comprehensive needs for all those who have been sex trafficked and their families, regardless of whether or not they pursue investigation and prosecution. Persons who are traumatized often choose not to prosecute and they should not be abandoned nor denied services.

*continued on next page*

---

*\*Through the process of decolonization and reclaiming our Indigenous self-identities, this document is now the Indigenous Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda. As we continue to move forward and continue to look at the language, the terminology may change in the future.*

# Indigenous Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda



21. The right to utilize all Cannabis (marijuana) as a plant relative, and to support accessibility, and the nationwide legalization and the right for all Tribal Governments to exercise their sovereignty concerning the legalization of all Cannabis (marijuana) and to decriminalize its use, including expunging of all criminal records in all jurisdictions relating to any prosecutions.
  22. The right to speak and be heard on our issues, without being subjected to chemical or biological assaults, which disrupt women's wellbeing and natural cycles, including the use of intimidation or physical violence, LRAD's or projectiles, etc.
  23. The right to protect the environment, especially mother earths' precious waters, which are critical to maintaining women's reproductive systems and healthy communities.
  24. The right to address and correct inaccurate histories that support ongoing colonialism and racism as they impact women's bodies, reproductive justice and our communities.
- In order to accomplish the foregoing stated rights, we commit to creating conditions and alliances to network with other groups.

## Amended July 31, 2020, Attending Participants

Ida Aronson  
United Houma Nation  
Coya Artichoker  
Lakota  
Charon Asetoyer  
Comanche  
Karen Buller  
Comanche  
Peggy Bird  
Kewa Pueblo  
Mary Crow  
Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians  
Pam Kingfisher  
Cherokee Nation  
Lisa Montelongo  
Eastern Band  
Cherokee Indians  
Monique Verdin  
United Houma Nation  
Ann White Hat  
Sicangu Lakota

## Amended May 28, 2000, Attending Participants

Charon Asetoyer  
Comanche  
Nilak Butler  
Inuit  
Dorothy Davids  
Mohican  
Cecilia Gomez  
Chicana  
Luz Guerra  
Mestiza  
Lona Fast Horse  
Cheyenne River Sioux  
Adelina Alva Padilla Santa  
Ynez Chumash  
Pamela Kingfisher  
Cherokee  
Beverly Little Thunder  
Lakota Sioux  
Mia Luluqu sien  
Ilokano/Heiltsuk  
Barbara Moore  
Apache  
Yako Myers  
Mohawk  
Leslie Hawkins  
Metis  
Julian Paul  
Penobscot

Colette Powers  
Anishinabe  
Pattie Salas  
Chicana Coahuilteca  
Consuelo Schimpf  
Comanche  
Beverly Scow  
Kwa Guilth  
Alice Skenandore  
Ojibwa  
Dagmar Thorpe  
Sac and Fox

## Attending Participants, May 18, 1990 Original authors of the In- digenous Women's Repro- ductive Justice Agenda : Points 1 - 16

Sherrie Agneau  
Cheyenne River Sioux  
Karen Artichoke  
Oglala/Winnebago  
Charon Asetoyer  
Comanche  
Ellen Ashes  
Yankton Sioux  
Winifred E. Boub  
Rosebud Sioux  
Corrine Black Bear  
Rosebud Sioux

Tillie Black Bear  
Rosebud Sioux  
Judy A. Bridwell  
Cheyenne River Sioux  
Jackie R. Rouse  
Rosebud Sioux  
Bessie L. Long  
Yankton Sioux  
Viola Poorman  
Rosebud Sioux  
Maria Provost  
Cheyenne River Sioux  
Naomi Renville  
Omaha, Seneca, Sioux  
Nancy Denny  
Santee Sioux  
Antoinette Eagle Boy  
Standing Rock Sioux  
Mollie A. Emery  
Santee Sioux  
April Fallis  
Crow Creek Sioux  
Carmel C. Flood  
Yankton Sioux  
Donna Haukaas  
Rosebud Sioux  
Brenda Hill  
Blackfoot  
Anita Sanchez  
Yankton Sioux  
LeAnn Swenson-Wall  
Chitamaiche/Cherokee

Laura Trudell  
Yankton Sioux  
Wanda Wells  
Crow Creek Sioux  
Phyllis Wilcox  
Oglala Sioux  
Myra A. Winckler  
Yankton Sioux  
Georgine Young  
Yankton Sioux  
Mona Fischer  
Yankton Sioux  
Evelyn New Holy  
Oglala Sioux  
Mary Louise  
Defender-Wilson  
Northern Dakota Sioux  
Barbara Bruguier  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
Janice Howe  
Crow Creek Sioux  
Theresa Red Bear  
Crow Creek Sioux  
Darlene Medicine Crow  
Crow Creek Sioux  
Delores O'Connor  
Yankton Sioux  
Debra Pickner  
Crow Creek Sioux  
Lisa M. Iyotte  
Ft. Belknap Sioux