



USA: Solidarity with Native American and Alaska Native Run Shelters

Background

Following the brutal kidnapping, rape and murder of 31-year-old Ivy Archambault (whose Lakota name was Pretty Bird Woman), her sister Jackie Brown Otter, decided to do something for herself, her family and the women living in her community. She worked with the South Dakota Coalition on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to create a program on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation to provide advocacy and safety for women.

The program, entitled Pretty Bird Woman House, currently employs one Director/Advocate and one assistant, and has neither a permanent budget nor a shelter facility. Because it does not yet have a shelter, Pretty Bird Woman House currently seeks to find such services off the reservation for victims of violence. Reportedly, between January and July 2005, Pretty Bird Woman House served 67 women and 58 children. It is currently trying to establish a shelter that would provide services for women on the reservation.

Today there are few options, particularly culturally sensitive options, for Native American and Alaska Native women fleeing violence. Native American and Alaska Native-run shelters are important as they can create culturally respectful spaces and advocacy for Native American and Alaska Native women.

Shelters operated by Native American and Alaska Native peoples provide safety to Indigenous survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and provide cultural and traditional help to victims. Such shelters and programs are an essential component in addressing the high levels of violence against Native American and Alaska Native women.

Take Action:

Write a message of solidarity to the Native American and Alaska Native women-run shelters in the USA. Do this by sending your messages to Amnesty International USA. We encourage you to download the Solidarity Card available at http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/pdf/usa_action.pdf and surround your message with this beautiful Native American design.

Send your appeals to:

*AIUSA Women's Human Rights Program
5 Penn Plaza, 16th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10001
USA*

