



January 16, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to share resources for your awareness in follow-up to the United States (U.S.) Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation, which was convened on November 19-21, 2024, in Santa Fe, New Mexico (Pueblo of Pojoaque).

I appreciated the engagement of Tribal Leaders and members of your staff who shared testimony regarding these and associated topics, which included the following: strategies for enhancing personal safety and Federal responses to crimes committed against American Indians and Alaska Natives; addressing domestic and intimate partner violence; trafficking, stalking, and homicides; and improving access to information databases and criminal justice information systems.

Multiple Tribal Leaders provided recommendations to support and enhance medical forensic health care, behavioral health, and culturally appropriate prevention efforts, along with increasing access to unrestricted funding to support these types of programs more effectively.

The DOJ and the Indian Health Service (IHS) are committed to addressing the domestic and sexual violence disproportionately impacting American Indian and Alaska Native women. Both agencies have policies, programs, and training in place that focus on reducing violence in Tribal communities. Within the IHS, our coordinated response to aid victims may include health care providers, behavioral health care staff, social services, victim advocates, law enforcement, traditional healers, and faith-based organizations. Please see the Enclosure, which highlights some of the work that the IHS is doing to provide support to Tribal members and communities.

I want to thank each Tribal Leader for your continued dedication and contributions to the IHS mission. Our website at [Forensic Healthcare | Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#) is an important resource for additional information. Should you wish to receive regular updates associated with Forensic Healthcare, please sign up to participate at [IHS Forensic Healthcare Listserv](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nicole Stahlmann, Forensic Nurse Consultant, IHS, by e-mail at nicole.stahlmann@IHS.gov.

Sincerely

Roselyn Tso
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Roselyn Tso
Director

Enclosure: *Indian Health Service Forensic Healthcare Programs*