



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Third Annual Tribal Assembly
April 18-20, 2018
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 18-37

Title: Creation of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Task Force

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1(l) of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution empowers the Tribe to establish standing committees and to prescribe the functions and jurisdiction of such committees; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly has established the Judiciary Committee as a standing committee, whose purpose is to advise the Executive Council and Tribal Administration on judiciary and tribal court matters; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal statutes further outline the authority and duties of the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2013, President Obama signed into law the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), including provisions for tribal governments to protect Native women; and

WHEREAS, Native American women experience violence at much higher rates than other populations, a recent federal study reported that Native American women face murder rates over ten times the national average, however, many of these crimes remain unsolved and even unreported because of the very high rates of disappearances among Native American women; furthermore, there is no comprehensive data collection system for reporting or tracking missing Native American women, and this gap in reporting and investigation makes Native American women even more vulnerable to violence; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native women suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault in the United States, an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted every 18 hours, and according to

the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, 1 in 2 Alaska Native women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, geographical remoteness, extreme weather, and the lack of transportation infrastructure present challenges responding to crime in Alaska Native villages and providing access to state judicial systems in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native women in urban areas are also threatened by physical and sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska continues to withdraw law enforcement resources from rural Alaska, causing Alaska Native women to be increasingly at risk; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized Indian tribes that operate within Alaska Native villages must be able to carry out local, culturally relevant solutions to effectively address the lack of law enforcement in villages and the lack of access to swift state court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, although violence against Native American women has been a neglected issue in society, there is a growing awareness of this crisis of violence against Native American women, and a recognition of the need for the criminal justice system to better serve and protect Native American women; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has been proactive in searching for ways to connect state, tribal, and federal resources to create partnerships in finding ways to solve this crisis facing Native American women in our state; and

WHEREAS, failure to recognize and acknowledge domestic violence as having a major impact on Native communities, families, women and children, and diminishes, not only Native women but, also diminishes the heart and spirit of Native nations as sovereign; and

WHEREAS, the future of indigenous nations rests in the secure status of women to live in an environment free of violence; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a task force dedicated to fighting violence against women, children and the vulnerable among our tribal citizens will be a strong asset and resource for Tlingit & Haida, the Executive Committee, fellow standing committees, and our tribal citizens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 18-20, 2018, hereby resolves to establish a Violence Against Women (VAW) Task Force whose focus and purpose is to study, analyze, and recommend how to continue to increase criminal justice protective and investigative resources for reporting and identifying murdered and missing Native American women in the state, how to reduce incidences of violence against women, identify rates of violence against women, identify barriers, identify and

support tribal justice methods at the regional and the local level to address these issues within our communities and find ways to create tribal, state, and federal partnerships to increase reporting and investigation of missing Native American women; and report on the level of domestic violence in our Nations, communities, and homes; and how this affects all levels of tribal life; with recommendations for action and potential funding sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VAW Task Force shall include all victims of domestic and sexual violence regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation in its findings and recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VAW Task Force is authorized to pursue partnerships with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Violence Against Women Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VAW Task Force will report its findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Judiciary Committee shall use the findings to strategize actions for tribal communities and nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VAW Task Force shall regularly provide to the Judiciary Committee guidance on policies, procedures and practices relating to violence against women, families and children, including sex trafficking related to our tribal citizens; and the VAW Task Force shall also advise the Judiciary Committee on matters related to law enforcement, tribal court development and support and on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the VAW Task Force shall explore the legal and social issues of sex trafficking through a culturally specific lens; while some activities will offer foundation-level understanding, others will offer specific, in-depth discussion about working with special populations.

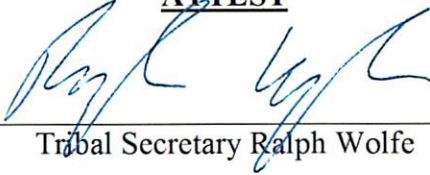
ADOPTED this 20th day of April 2018, by the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe