



Kwey Relatives...

As another year has come to an end, the WWC would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support towards the movement to end domestic and sexual violence.

As we lead into 2020, let's take the time to reflect on what we have accomplished so far and get rejuvenated for the work that lies ahead.

Together, we can all do our part to make our communities safer. #wabanakitogogetherwecan

May the joys of new year last forever in your life. Wishing you all love, peace, happiness and good health. Happy New Year!

The Wabanaki Women's Coalition is thrilled to announce that it has been selected as one of the recipients for the 2019 Grants for Change through Maine Initiatives!

The Grants for Change Program seeks to fund and strengthen community based nonprofit organizations whose work is advancing racial justice in Maine.

The Wabanaki Women's Coalition would like to thank Maine Initiatives for its support of our mission to increase the capacity of tribal communities to respond to domestic and sexual violence, and influence tribal, national, and regional systems to increase awareness, safety, justice, and healing for all our relations.



The Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence

The Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence (ATCEV) held its annual board meeting and organization planning meeting in December 2019 to prepare on its new path as the TA (Technical Assistance) provider for the Tribal Coalitions. New Officers were elected: President, Jane Root; Vice President, Pam Johnson; Treasurer, Dee Rhodes-Koester; and Secretary, Leanne Guy. This is an exciting time for the Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence. Congratulations!



Back (Left to Right): Dee Rhodes-Koester (Washington State Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault), Dawn Sweany Stover (Native Alliance Against Violence), Sandra Bercier (First Nations Women's Alliance), Leanne Guy (Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition), Shirley Moses (Healing Native Hearts Coalition) and Yolanda Francisco-Nez (Restoring Ancestral Winds). Front (Left to Right): Germaine Omish-Lucero (ATCEV), Keely Linton (Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition), Jane Root (WWC) and Amie Barnes (Seven Dancers Coalition).

Serving Our Partners



Maliseet Domestic
and Sexual Violence
Advocacy Center

Office: 207-532-3000
24 Hour Hotline:
207-532-6401



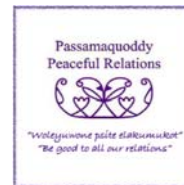
Indian Township Passamaquoddy
Domestic and Sexual
Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-796-6106
24 Hour Hotline:
207-214-1917



Penobscot Nation
Domestic and Sexual
Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-817-3165
24 Hour Hotline:
207-631-4886



Passamaquoddy Peaceful
Relations Domestic and Sexual
Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-853-0092/0093
24 Hour Toll Free Hotline:
1-877-853-2613



Micmac Domestic and
Sexual Violence
Advocacy Center

Office: 207-760-0570
24 Hour Hotline:
207-551-3639

Indian Country Strangulation and Suffocation Seminar

WWC Staff Members, Jane Root and Donna Brown, attended the Indian Country Strangulation and Suffocation Seminar at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, SC. The WWC would like to thank the Alliance for Hope International for providing such excellent training to help increase victim safety, hold offenders accountable for the crimes they commit, and prevent future homicides.



Facts Victims of Strangulation (Choking) Need to Know

Strangulation has only recently been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence: ***unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes.*** When domestic violence perpetrators choke (strangle) their victims, not only is this a felonious assault, but it may be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is an *ultimate form of power and control*, where the batterer can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath; having devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome.

Sober and conscious victims of strangulation will first feel terror and severe pain. If strangulation persists, unconsciousness will follow. Before lapsing into unconsciousness, a strangulation victim will usually resist violently, often producing injuries of their own neck in an effort to claw off the assailant, and frequently also producing injury on the face or hands to their assailant. These defensive injuries may not be present if the victim is physically or chemically restrained before the assault. Victims may lose consciousness by any one or all of the following methods: blocking of the carotid arteries in the neck (depriving the brain of oxygen), blocking of the jugular veins (preventing deoxygenated blood from exiting the brain), and closing off the airway, making breathing impossible.

Documentation by photographs sequentially for a period of days after the assault is very helpful in establishing a journal of physical evidence. Victims should also seek medical attention if they experience difficulty breathing, speaking, swallowing or experience nausea, vomiting, lightheadedness, headache, involuntary urination and/or defecation, especially pregnant victims. A medical evaluation may be crucial in detecting internal injuries and saving a life. Source: Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. www.strangulationinstitute.com.

January is Stalking Awareness Month

“Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear,” according to the Department of Justice. Similar to crimes of sexual violence, stalking is about power and control. Stalking laws and definitions differ from state to state. Stalking behavior can take many forms including:

- Making threats against someone, or that person's family or friends
- Non-consensual communication, such as repeated phone calls, emails, text messages, and unwanted gifts
- Repeated physical or visual closeness, like waiting for someone to arrive at certain locations, following someone, or watching someone from a distance
- Any other behavior used to contact, harass, track, or threaten someone.

One of the ways perpetrators stalk victims is through the use of technology. You may have heard the term cyberstalking to refer to these types of interactions. “Use of technology to stalk” is a broad term that is used to cover all forms stalking that rely on technology.

Some uses of technology to stalk include:

- Persistently sending unwanted communication through the internet, such as spamming someone's email inbox or social media platform
- Posting threatening or personal information about someone on public internet forums
- Video-voyeurism, or installing video cameras that give the stalker access to someone's personal life
- Using GPS or other software tracking systems to monitor someone without their knowledge or consent
- Using someone's computer and/or spyware to track their computer activity.

If you think you are being stalked, please know you are right to be concerned. Stalking may escalate in behavior. Consider the following tips to increase your safety and effectively report the crime:

- Try to avoid the person stalking you. This can be difficult at times, especially if the person stalking you is close to you or your family.
- If you are being stalked through communication technology, like email or text messaging, make it clear that you wish to stop contact. Once you've made it clear, do not respond to further communication.
- Keep any evidence received from the stalker such as text messages, voicemails, letters, packages, emails, etc., but do not respond. You can do this by taking screenshots of conversations or even printing out email exchanges.
- Inform family, friends, supervisors, and co-workers of the situation.
- If you have children, create a code word that lets them know they need to leave the house or call the police.
- Consider reporting the stalking to local law enforcement.
- Keeping an accurate journal or log of all incidents connected to the stalking.
- Become familiar with computer safety and ways to stay safe online.

Source: RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) - www.rainn.org

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

During the month of January, advocates, organizations, and individuals unite to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking. While movements like #MeToo have started to bring crimes like sexual harassment and sexual assault out of the shadows, human trafficking largely remains hidden. Putting an end to human trafficking starts with acknowledging its existence.

Learn the facts about human trafficking by using the resources below so you can help shed light on the issue. By sharing what you learn and speaking up, you can join the movement to put an end to this exploitation.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is “modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.” Victims of human trafficking are of all genders, ages, races, countries, socioeconomic statuses, and so on. While human trafficking can happen to anyone, people who are already in vulnerable situations—such as people experiencing homelessness—may be more likely to be targeted.



The different kinds of human trafficking include sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude. Sex trafficking victims may be forced, threatened, or manipulated by promises of love or affection to engage in sex acts for money. Any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is an issue that touches every community, including our reservations, cities, suburbs, and rural towns, but there is something each of us can do to help prevent it. “No one is free when others are oppressed.” As our society becomes much more aware of many oppressive social structures and crimes, we must start to acknowledge and address human trafficking as well. It may be hard to accept that this crime exists in our communities, but we have to share the knowledge that this is a reality for far too many victims in order to change that reality. Do your part this January: hang up a poster, share a video, snap a picture, and help bring human trafficking out of the shadows. Source: www.nsvrc.org.

New Staff Member Announcement

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Tawoma Martinez as the Advocate/Community Educator for the Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center!

Tawoma has many years of experience working in the criminal justice field and has been a volunteer for the Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center for several years. She is well acquainted with all the Wabanaki Tribal communities and has been attending cultural events with her son since moving to Maine over 15 years ago.



Annual WWC Survivors' Retreat

The annual WWC Survivors' Retreat was held on October 18-20, 2019. The retreat includes an opportunity for women to relax, learn, and share as part of their healing journey with others. Highlights of this gathering included traditional ceremonies, talking circles, making shawls, drumming and dancing. Participants also learned about trauma and its impact on survivors and their children.



4th Annual WWC Tribal Leadership Summit

The Wabanaki Women's Coalition hosted its 4th Annual Tribal Leadership Summit on October 24-25, 2019 in Bar Harbor, Maine. Participants included staff from local and tribal domestic and sexual violence advocacy centers, tribal court, law enforcement and tribal leaders. Community members and staff from all 5 Wabanaki tribes attended including the Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. The WWC would like to thank all who participated in the summit as well as invited guest speakers: Niskapisuwin Geo Soctomah Neptune, Leslie Hagen, Francine Stark, Andrea Mancuso, Karen Wyman, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, M. Brent Leonhard and Catalina Piedrahita. The WWC would also like to thank the following sponsors: OVW (Office on Violence Against Women), Bangor Savings Bank, Delia Bouchard State Farm Insurance, and Decontie & Brown.

40 Hour Advocate Training

Jane Root provided 40 Hour Advocate Training from October 28 –31, 2019 at Point Lookout in Northport, Maine. Newly hired Advocates were able to learn more about important topics such as Domestic Violence Impact on Children, Batterers Profile, Confidentiality, Advocacy Program Intake, Sexual Assault, Strangulation, Working with Incest Survivors, Working with Adolescents, Advocacy Skills, Protection from Abuse Orders, Safety Planning, Program Services, and Coordinated Community Response. Congratulations to the Advocates for completing this training and continuing the work of providing support to make our Communities safer!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM Events)

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month! We are sharing some of the highlights of events that were organized in our Wabanaki communities. **#wabanakitogetherwecan**





This project was supported by Grant No. 2018-IW-AX-0006 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Wabanaki Women's Coalition

Jane Root, Executive Director

PO Box 365

Lincolntonville, Maine 04849

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE