



Wabanaki Women's Coalition *December 2018 Newsletter*

Kwey Relatives...

The WWC staff would like wish all of our friends, colleagues and relatives a safe and happy holiday season! We would also like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support towards the movement to end domestic and sexual violence. As we come to the end of 2018, let's take the time to reflect on what we have accomplished so far and get rejuvenated for the work that lies ahead.

January is Stalking Awareness Month

While definitions of stalking vary with each jurisdiction, a good working definition is *a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.*

Intimate partner stalking is the most common type and is the most dangerous. On average, stalking lasts about 2 years; intimate partner stalking lasts longer. There is a strong connection between stalking and intimate partner femicide (76% of intimate partner femicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner).

Some Things Stalkers Do:

- Follow you and show up wherever you are;
- Send unwanted letters/text messages/e-mails/gifts/cards etc;
- Cause damage to your personal property such as your home or your car;
- Monitor your computer use or phone calls;
- Use technology such as global positioning systems (GPS) or hidden cameras to monitor and track you;
- Threaten to hurt you, your pets or loved ones;
- Going through great lengths to find out information about you;
- Posting false information about you;
- Any other actions that track, control or frighten you.

There Is Help - You Are Not Alone

Please see our list of Wabanaki Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers on the next page.

Sources and for additional information: Stalking Resource Center, www.victimsofcrime.org/src

Indian Nations Conference: Justice for Victims of Crime

The 16th National Indian Nations Conference was held in Palm Springs, California on December 5-7, 2018. Organized by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI), this year's theme for the conference was "Braiding Strength, Hope, and Healing for the Path Forward."

More than 80 conference workshop presentations were provided to demonstrate methods and strategies to improve safety as well as promote justice and healing for crime victims through cooperation and collaboration between tribal, federal, state and private entities in Native communities.



Mary Kathryn Nagle
Panelist
Playwright
Partner (Pipestem Law)



Joanne Shenandoah
Panelist
Singer, Performer,
Composer, Actress, Lecturer



Blankets in Honor of:
(left to right) - women
children, men, elders & the
disabled, two spirit LGBTQ

Serving Our Partners



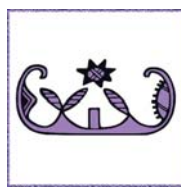
Maliseet Domestic
and Sexual Violence
Advocacy Center

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



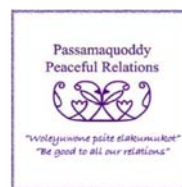
Indian Township Passamaquoddy
Domestic and Sexual
Violence Advocacy Center

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



Penobscot Nation
Domestic and Sexual
Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-817-3164
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

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month! The 5 Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers participated in the annual event by organizing several DVAM activities throughout the month. A national theme was also used which focused on a unified message around **#1Thing**, that change can start with only **#1Thing**. One person's actions may seem insignificant, but together a communities' collective **"#1Things"** can lead to real social transformation. **#1Thing Key Messages Included:**

-
- #BananiTogetherWeCan
- My #1 thing I can do to make our neighborhood more inclusive is my community.
- talk about it! Listen & support those that speak forward.
- 2018 Greater Victoria Inclusive Youth



Annual WWC Survivor's Retreat

The annual Survivors' Retreat was held on November 2-4, 2018. 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, drumming, dancing, and the making of ribbon skirts. Participants also learned about trauma and its impact on survivors and their children.

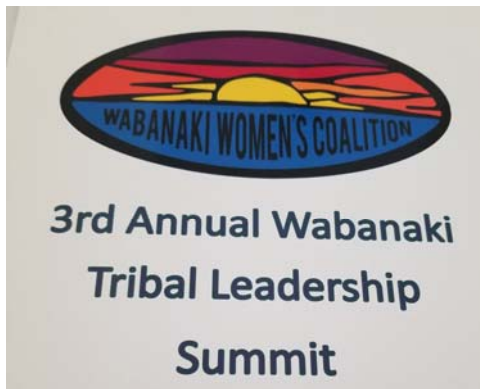


Annual WWC Tribal Government Summit

The Wabanaki Women's Coalition hosted its 3rd Annual Tribal Leadership Summit on October 22-23, 2018 in Bar Harbor, Maine. Participants included staff from local and tribal domestic and sexual violence advocacy centers, 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 summit opened with a shawl ceremony that included singing from members, Julie Miller and Sarah DeWitt, followed by opening remarks by Chief Clarissa Sabattis from the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. The summit included local and national experts who delivered presentations on topics including Native Specific Batterers Intervention Programs and Restorative Justice; Batterers Intervention Programs in Maine; Domestic Violence Investigations and Proactive Responses; Sex Trafficking; Technology Facilitated Crimes Against Children; and OVW Resources to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence in Tribal Communities.

The WWC would like to thank all who participated in the summit as well as invited guest speakers: Jeremy NeVilles-Sorell (Training and Resource Director – Mending the Sacred Hoop), Francine Garland Stark (Executive Director – Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence), Rebekah Charleston, Josefina Sabori, and Rebekah Jones (Grant Program Specialist – OVW Tribal Affairs Division). The WWC would also like to thank the following sponsors: OVW (Office on Violence Against Women), Bangor Savings Bank, Delia Bouchard State Farm Insurance, Ampersand, Hannaford, and Decontie & Brown.



2018 OVW Tribal Consultation

On August 21-22, 2018, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) held its 13th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The purpose of the consultation is to solicit recommendations from tribal leaders on the following three topics: 1) enhancing the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking; 2) strengthening the federal response to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking; and 3) administering funds and programs for tribal governments established by the original Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation. The following provided verbal testimony: Cathy St. John, Tribal Council Houlton Band of Maliseets (and Shelter Coordinator, Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Assault Advocacy Center); Donna Brown, Outreach Coordinator, Wabanaki Women's Coalition on behalf of Chief Francis, Penobscot Indian Nation; and Jane Root, Executive Director, Wabanaki Women's Coalition on behalf of Chief Peter Paul, Aroostook Band of Micmacs and Chief Nicholas, Indian Township Passamaquoddy.



3rd Annual Tribal Governments Program National Summit

On September 25-27, 2018, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) held its 3rd Annual Tribal Governments Program National Summit in Denver, Colorado. Staff from the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and the 5 Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers were in attendance.

The Summit focused on key issues for Tribal Nations and Alaska Native Villages in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking; including methods and strategies to improve victim safety, offender accountability, and effective collaboration between tribal, federal, state governments and/or services providers.

Highlights of the Summit included Tribal Sovereignty as well as the issue of Missing and Murdered in Indian Country, with workshops on criminal justice and advocacy responses, responding to children and youth impacted by domestic and sexual violence, and engaging men in the work to end violence against women and children.



End Violence Together Rally

On Saturday, September 15, 2018, the WWC, along with more than 30 other local organizations, participated in the 5th annual End Violence Together Rally in Bangor. The event included live music, guest speakers, interactive art projects and a walk through downtown Bangor to stand in solidarity with the more than 2,600 rallies that were held around the world during Campaign Nonviolence Week and the International Day of Peace on September 21st. The goals of the event were to educate the community, unite people and raise awareness. Campaign Nonviolence is an intentional movement to build a culture of peace and nonviolence, free from war, poverty, racism, domestic violence, environmental destruction and the epidemic of violence in all its forms.



Donna and Jason Brown
Leading a Round Dance



Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center Staff Domestic Violence Awareness Month





For More Information about this research study contact your
Tribal Domestic and Sexual Advocacy Center (see page 2 for contact #s)

Wabanaki Women's Coalition
Jane Root, Executive Director
PO Box 365
Lincolntonville, Maine 04849

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE