

UTFAV Newsletter

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May 5: National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and girls

UNITING THREE FIRES
AGAINST VIOLENCE

EDUCATING
ADVOCATING
RESEARCHING

In February, a congressional resolution was introduced to designate May 5 as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women. May 5th was chosen in honor of Hanna Harris, of Lame Deer Montana. Hanna was a Northern Cheyenne tribal member who had gone missing in July of 2013. Hanna was found raped and murdered 5 days later. In honoring Hanna, her birthday, May 5th was chosen as the day of awareness.

Montana Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester

introduced Senate Resolution 60 on Monday, Feb. 13 with support from Senators James Lankford (OK), Cory Gardner (CO), Al Franken (MN), John Hoeven (ND), and Tom Udall (NM) who all co-sponsored the resolution. On March 23rd, the House of Representatives version of the bill was introduced by Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ).

Unfortunately it appears the bill will not move forward in time for May 5, 2017.

UTFAV still plans to honor Hanna and all murdered and missing Native American women on May 5th of this year and to find out more information on how you can do so too, please see the box below.



What Can You Do?

- Encourage your Tribal program and community to talk about murdered and missing Native American women and girls.
- Announce your recognition that May 5 is a day to remember murdered and missing Native American women and girls.
- Wear red in memory of a murdered Native American woman or girl.
- Register for the upcoming National Indigenous Women's Resource Center Webinar "Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" on May 5th. Register at <https://goo.gl/H3lmG1>

Michigan Legislation: Senate Bill 275

On March 28 Senator Judy Emmons introduced Senate Bill 275. The bill would remove immunity for law enforcement officers to have sexual intercourse with prostitutes. The bill was unanimously passed on April 26th and has been referred to the House of Representatives Committee on Law and Justice.

This legislation is part of an effort to protect victims removal of immunity will hold all law enforcement

Michigan is the only state in the U.S to still give immunity to undercover cops who have sex with prostitutes during an investigation.

of human trafficking. While it is argued that law enforcement officials no longer use this investigation tactic, the

officials accountable, thus reducing the potential for re-victimization of victims of sex-trafficking by law enforcement. Emmons

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stated, "At the time they might not consider it that, but as they start to heal, they realize how egregious that would be if that had transpired," If you would like more information about this legislation, please contact rcarr@utfav.org.

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence Updates!

Attention!

Statewide Advocate Meeting Scheduled for May 23rd

UTFAV is working with Leslie O'Reilly (VOCA State Administrator) to re-establish the statewide advocates meetings that used to happen several times a year. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 23rd starting at 10:00am. The location is the Potawatomi Heritage Center located in the Hannahville Indian Community. Leslie O'Reilly (State Administrator of VOCA) will address the advocates regarding VOCA funding; time for general discussion/concerns from advocates; and a training/education piece on trauma-informed care. UTFAV does have travel monies to assist those tribes that do not receive

VOCA funds to attend these upcoming meetings. Please contact Rachel at rcarr@utfav.org if you are interested in attending!

NATIONAL
Center on
Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health

Tribal Leadership Summit

UTFAV is excited to announce our fourth annual Tribal Leadership Summit the week of September 18th, 2017. Advocates are encouraged to invite their Tribal Leaders to this important meeting. Tentative topics will include: Consultation Preparation, VAWA 2018 Reauthorization, Best Practices for Native American Victims in Federal Court (Presented by Previous US Attorney Office Tribal Liaison and Sault Tribe member David Adams), StrongHearts Native Helpline and more. Please notify your Tribal Leaders and request their attendance at the Summit.

Trauma Conference

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, in partnership with The National Center on Domestic Violence Trauma and Mental Health, will be hosting a two day conference specifically focused on Trauma in relation to domestic violence. Logistics are still tentative, but keep an eye out for a save-the-date and registration flyer.

Currently, the month of August is being considered. UTFAV is looking to provide this conference in the lower peninsula of Michigan. Mileage, Hotel and Per Diem will be available for attendees. If you would like to suggest a location, please contact hmckelvie@utfav.org

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Uniting Three Fires Against Violence is Michigan's Native American Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition. Our mission is to support Michigan Tribes in promoting the social change necessary to address the disproportionate rates of violence impacting our communities. We are dedicated to providing resources, safety and advocacy to ensure the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of Native Americans victimized by violence.

For more information about Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, please contact us at 906-253-9975.