

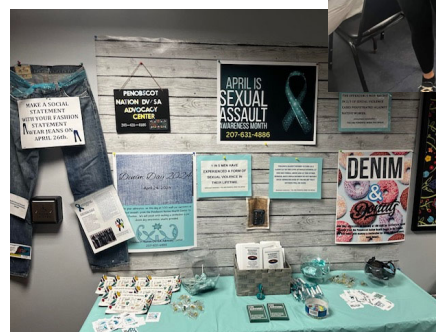


Kwey Relatives...

April Is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native Women are sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- 1 in 4 American Indian Men are sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- 1 in 2 non-binary and/or a part of the LGBTQ+2 community are sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- 86 percent of perpetrators are non-native.

This year's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month was "Building Connected Communities." As Indigenous peoples gathering, sharing teachings, speaking language, using cultural healing medicines, believing survivors and not forgetting about them in community, holding perpetrators accountable can be helpful to survivors. Survivors will know the best supports for themselves, but as community we can help by believing them, not forgetting about them and standing beside them in their time of need.



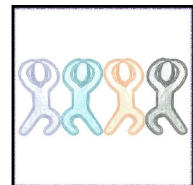
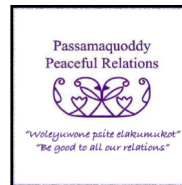
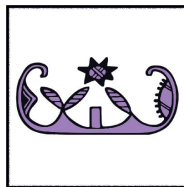
April - Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Left to right: Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Director Tori Neptune, Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center Advocate Jessica Sockbeson, WWC Executive Director Donna Brown, Maliseet Advocacy Center Advocate Tawoma Martinez, WWC Outreach Coordinator Aline Pardilla, Maliseet Advocacy Center Advocate Allison Sabattis.

WWC Staff, Peaceful Relations Director, and Advocates traveled to the 2024 Strengthening Sovereign Responses to Sex Trafficking in Indian Country and Alaska Conference, organized by the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition. Survivors, tribal leaders, field experts and federal partners convened to learn and strategize on how to improve responses to sex trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Serving Our Partners



Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-532-3000
24 Hour Hotline:

Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-214-1917
24 Hour Hotline:

Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-817-7446
24 Hour Hotline:

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-853-0092
24 Hour Toll Free Hotline:

Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-760-0570
24 Hour Hotline:

Penobscot Nation Citizen Receives MECASA Award



Penobscot Nation Tribal Citizen Sheldon Snell received the “Make A Difference Award,” from MECASA (Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault).

Sheldon’s story was published in the local Bangor Daily News, a brave survivor who came forward about his sexual assault by a priest who was assigned to St. Ann’s Catholic Church on Indian Island.



Wabanaki Women’s Coalition Staff and Advocates wear Denim in support of National Denim Day to raise awareness about Sexual Assault

May - National Day of Awareness for MMIW



May 5th is recognized as National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children. According to the FBI Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples report, Indigenous Females and Males aged 1-54 years old have murder listed as one of the top ten leading causes for death. Furthermore Urban Indian Health Institute reports murder as the third leading cause of death for Native Women. As of September 30,2022 there have been a total of 46,022 cases entered in to NamUS of those cases only 258 were created for American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.



Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Director Tori Neptune coordinates a remembrance walk for MMIW.



Micmac Advocacy Center held an event in remembrance for MMIW.



When A Loved One Goes Missing - Dos & Don'ts

Do:

- 1) Contact Local Law Enforcement. There is no required amount of time you must wait in order to file a report.
- 2) Gather information and keep records/documents as needed.
- 3) Ask a family/friend/advocate for support for yourself.
- 4) Enlist the help of your family, community, victim services & Tribal Coalitions or grass roots organizers.

Don't:

- 1) Do Not touch or move anything before law enforcement arrives.
- 2) Do Not tidy or clean up their home, car or the area they were last seen.
- 3) Do Not delete or alter any call history, texts, social media accounts, cellphones, web browser history, bank account records.
- 4) Do Not use your personal number for MMIW/MMIP posters or flyers.

Source: NIWRC, When A Loved One Goes Missing; A Quick Reference Guide for Families of Missing Indigenous Women: What to do in the first 72 Hours

<https://www.niwrc.org/>



June - Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Abuse can happen to anyone. Elder abuse affects both men and women of all cultures, races and socio-economic groups. Elder Abuse can happen anywhere; in a person's own home, in hospitals, in nursing homes, in assisted living facilities, and other institutional settings.

Women and "older" elders (80 years and older) are the most common victims of elder abuse. Elder abuse is largely unreported. The National Center on Elder Abuse suggests that only 1 in 14 cases of abuse is actually reported to the authorities. Major financial exploitation is self reported at a higher rate than self reported rates of emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect.

Elders who experience abuse, neglect or self neglect face considerably higher risk of premature death than elder who have not been mistreated. Older adults who are abused or mistreated are three times more likely to die within the next decade than the same age adults who are not mistreated.

Source: Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention

MAINE COUNCIL FOR
ELDER ABUSE
PREVENTION

**Empowered
communities start
with education;
become an advocate
and speak out on
behalf of those who
cannot.**

elderabuseprevention.info

 **WORLD ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY**
Building Strong Support for Elders

The graphic features a portrait of an elderly woman with white hair, wearing a pink shirt and a green beaded necklace. The background is a light blue gradient.

June - Pride Month

June is nationally recognized as Pride Month in celebration so that we may listen to LGBTQ+2 Spirit voices and acknowledge their experiences. Let us partner in creating safe spaces for all LGBTQ+2 peoples in community in ceremony and in life.

Local Wabanaki Specific Resources Include the Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance.

The W2SA is a group of volunteers, researchers, academics, knowledge holders, youth and Elder Wabanaki Two-Spirits and Allies. (<https://w2sa.ca/>)

Members of the Alliance self-identify in various ways, which include: Two-Spirits, Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Indigiqueer, and the “+” may represent non-conforming, non-binary expressions. People may use English terms or terms which may be from their Indigenous languages.

Mission: To represent the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical well-being and interests of Two Spirits and Indigenous LGBTQ+ individuals and groups in Wabanaki Territory (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland/Labrador, Gaspé region of Quebec, and Maine (northern areas in Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribal territories) based on our beliefs and values in the framework within the Peace and Friendship Treaty.

Vision: To strive to provide equitable and safe environments for Two Spirits and Indigenous LGBTQ+ to live and thrive spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally within our Wabanaki territory.



* Photo Credit: Wabanaki Two Spirit Alliance
Facebook Page.

Summer of Self Care 2024

4 T's of Mindfulness

Tune In: The first T of mindfulness is to “tune in’ to our thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations. Tuning in means to be aware of what is happening in the present moment.

Take a Step Back: The second T of mindfulness is to “take a step back” from our thoughts, feelings and physical sensations. This means to observe them without getting caught up in them. Taking a step back allows us to gain some distance from our thoughts and feelings and see them more objectively. This can help us to be more aware of our thoughts and feelings, and respond to them in a more mindful way.

Take Care: The third T of mindfulness is to “take care” of our thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations. This means to be kind and compassionate towards ourselves and to treat ourselves with respect and understanding. Taking care of ourselves can help us to be more mindful of our thoughts and feelings, and to respond to them in a more mindful way.

Trust Yourself: The fourth T of mindfulness is to “trust yourself.” This means to trust that you know what is best for you, and to trust that you can make the right decisions for yourself. Trusting yourself can help you be more mindful of your thoughts and feelings and respond to them in a more mindful way.



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