Through the Teaching of Our Grandmothers

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Embracing Change & Growth: Strengthening Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence Conference
Workshop Outline

- Recognize that all forms of oppression are the root cause of sexual violence in Indian Country

- Understand where the power lies and the impact federal policies have had on dismantling tribal life ways

- Identify how advocacy is critical to creating long term change and ultimately wellness for tribal communities
Advocacy and Personal Sovereignty

Work with and on behalf of victims/survivors to help regain personal sovereignty and control over their bodies, their choices & their lives

Being a sovereign person

means being able to choose one's own actions and reactions without being forced to by another person
Pillars of Oppression

1. Uses violence without any consequences
2. Controls the oppressed groups by splitting them into good (collaborators) and bad (resistors)
3. Promotes belief in the superiority of the oppressors
4. Make the oppressed into inferior objects
5. Teaches submission to the oppressed
Group Discussion

How does this impact indigenous people doing the work or creating change in the community?
De-colonizing = Social Change
Restoration of Cultural identity

• Restore tribal values
  ▪ Sacredness and respect for Women/children
  ▪ Sacredness of men as healthy family/community members
  ▪ Celebrate and respect differences
  ▪ Child rearing

• Restore customs
  ▪ Ceremonies, e.g. naming
  ▪ Build/use cradle boards
  ▪ Stories/legends/language specific to tribal teachings
  ▪ Name-sakes/spiritual teachers for child(ren)
Sovereign Responses to Safety = Systems Change

- Establishing and/or strengthening sovereignty and the right to self-determination
- Tribal courts and justice system
- Tribal Social Services
- Tribal advocacy programs
- Government-to-government consultations
- Change public policy
Miigwech= Thank you

Information in this presentation was taken from Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition’s (MIWSAC) 40 Hour Sexual Assault Advocate Training Curriculum, Through the Teachings of our Grandmothers.