



**Parallel Event – NGO CSW Forum
UN Commission on the Status of Women 67th Session**

Violence Against Rural Indigenous Women: Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, the United States

March 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Technical Introduction

Miranda Carman, Program and Administrative Assistant, Indian Law Resource Center

Welcome

Jana L. Walker (Cherokee, Delaware, Loyal Shawnee), Senior Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center

Panel

Brazil

Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB)

Judite Guajajara (Guajajara Indigenous People), Legal Advisor, COIAB

Guatemala

International Mayan League

Maria Caal Pop (Maya Q'eqchi'), Ancestral Authority, Chapín Abajo Community

Juanita Cabrera López (Maya Mam), Executive Director, International Mayan League

Peru

Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSESEP)

Teresita Antazú López (Yanesha Indigenous People), Member of National Board of Directors, responsible for the Indigenous Women's Program

United States

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

Paula Julian, Interim Director for Policy

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center

Tami Truett Jerue (Anvik Tribe), Executive Director

Native Women's Society of the Great Plains

Sadie Young Bird (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), Executive Director of MHA Nation Tribal Victim Service Program

Pouhana O Nā Wāhine

Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy. D., LSW, CSAC (Kanaka 'Ōiwi), Executive Director

Dolly M.I. Tatofi, MSW, LCSW (Kanaka 'Ōiwi), Board Member (VP)

Recommendations and Closing Remarks

Christopher T. Foley (Cherokee), Senior Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center

Biographies



Teresita Antazú López is a member of the Yanesha indigenous peoples from the Central Pasco region of the Peruvian Amazon. Teresita has always believed in defending the rights of indigenous women and indigenous lands and territories. She has been involved in the fight for indigenous rights since a young age, participating in indigenous organizations at the local, regional, and national level. Currently, she is a member of AIDSEP's National Board of Directors and is responsible for AIDSEP's Indigenous Women Program.



Maria Caal Pop is an Ancestral Maya Q'eqchi' leader, mother, and defender of Mother Earth. For seven years she served as second vice president in the women's committee in the Chapín Abajo community. Today she is a leader and active member of the anti-mining struggles and resistance, an opponent of the African palm agro-industry, and leader in the fight for the recovery of Maya ancestral lands and territories of the Q'eqchi' Nation.



Juanita Cabrera Lopez is Maya Mam from the Western Highlands of Guatemala. She is a survivor of the internal armed conflict in Guatemala and a former political refugee. She has both personal and professional work experience in the defense of indigenous peoples' human rights. Her focus has been to use international law and organizations and traditional knowledge for the development of an indigenous human rights response in the areas of immigration, land rights, and environmental protection. She works with Maya leaders and elders in Guatemala and the United States through their traditional institutions. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its full and effective use and implementation is a key pillar to her work. She holds a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.



Miranda Carman graduated from the University of New Mexico in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and holds a Master's degree in Latin American Studies with a specialization in human rights and conflict resolution from Georgetown University. Currently, Miranda serves as the Program and Administrative Assistant for the Indian Law Resource Center's DC Office where she focuses on securing and protecting indigenous land rights, strengthening human rights standards relating to indigenous peoples within the United Nations, the Organizations of American States, and multilateral development banks, and enhancing indigenous peoples participation in international human rights bodies through capacity building and forming coalitions of indigenous organizations throughout North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean. Miranda speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Maria Judite Da Silva Ballerio Guajajara Judite Guajajara is a member of the Guajajara indigenous peoples from the Araribóia Indigenous Land in the state of Maranhão, Brazil. Judite received her law degree from the Federal University of Maranhão and holds a Master's in Law, State, and Constitution from the University of Brasília. Currently, Judite is a Legal Advisor to COIAB and the Coordination of Organizations and Articulations of the Indigenous Peoples of Maranhão (COAPIMA). Prior to joining COIAB's legal team, Judite served as the Deputy Secretary of State for Women for the state government of Maranhão.



Christopher T. Foley, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is a senior attorney with the Indian Law Resource Center in its Helena, Montana office. Founded in 1978, the Center is a nonprofit organization established and directed by American Indians that is dedicated to protecting the rights of Indian and Alaska Native nations and other indigenous peoples throughout the Americas. Chris works on the Center's international projects to build and strengthen human rights standards relating to indigenous peoples within the United Nations and the Organization of American States, and on the Center's domestic law reform efforts. He focuses much of his time on the Center's Safe Women, Strong Nations project which works to end violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. Chris received his B.A. from Swarthmore College, his J.D. from Temple University, and he is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania.



Tamra (Tami) Truett Jerue is an enrolled citizen of the Anvik Tribe and currently resides in Fairbanks, having just moved there from Anvik, Alaska, a small Athabascan community on the Yukon River. She is the mother to four children and the grandmother of five grandchildren. She is the Executive Director of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. Ms. Jerue has worked in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault for the last 40 years in various capacities. Her education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Community Psychology and Secondary Education. She has been involved with many non-profit boards over the years and worked most of her professional life in rural Alaska in fields such as therapy, sexual assault counseling, teaching, Tribal administration, ICWA social work and trainer. Her many experiences and that of her family and friends with domestic violence and sexual assault have kept Ms. Jerue passionate in helping facilitate change at a community level, within systems and families to help survivors live a violence free life.



Paula Julian serves as a Senior Policy Specialist with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. She works with a team of staff and partners to develop and maintain NIWRC's policy agenda to support governmental, nonprofit, and community responses to violence against women, including researching and drafting policy priorities, policy analysis, advocacy and monitoring, providing technical assistance and training and developing partnerships to strengthen laws, policies and responses addressing violence against Native women. Paula assisted Alaska Native advocates to establish the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and Native Hawaiian advocates who formed the Pouhana O Nā Wāhine (Pillars of Women), dedicated to establishing a Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Formerly, she also worked with the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians to develop the Tribe's response to violence against women; organizations aimed at addressing violence against Native women including Sacred Circle and the White Buffalo Calf Woman Society; and the Office of Violence Against Women at the U.S. Dept. of Justice.



Carmen O'Leary is Director of Native Women's Society of the Great Plains and a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe where she develops programs serving Native women experiencing violence. Carmen is a trainer on sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy and certified with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for Law Enforcement on Domestic Violence. Carmen has provided insight on Tribal Codes related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and the issuance of protection orders. She has served as a consultant for the State Court Association providing training on full faith and credit to Judges and courts on the VAWA provision. She has worked as a social services aide in a hospital setting, a child protection worker, and as coordinator for a women's shelter. Carmen is a Tribal Legal Lay advocate for the Cheyenne River Tribal court and has served as a Tribal court magistrate. She has facilitated reeducation classes for domestic violence offenders, women's support groups, and adults molested as children. Carmen is a regional representative and Board Vice Chairwoman for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.



Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy. D., LSW, CSAC (Kanaka 'Ōiwi) is the Interim Executive Director of Pouhana O Nā Wāhine. "*To understand with your heart is Aloha.*" Dayna believes that everyone has a story to tell and possess the ability to change their narrative as they grow. She welcomes individuals to share their stories with her in a safe space and at their own pace. She provides a sense of warmth, compassion and *Aloha* that fosters a "*Kākou*" (together) effort to remind each individual that she will be walking with them on their healing journey. As a Native Hawaiian Survivor of various traumas, Dayna continues to be guided by her *na'au* and ancestors daily in efforts of working toward ending violence from and within her people that will lead to peace, harmony, and sense of *Aloha* all ways, always.



Dolly M.I. Tatofi, MSW, LCSW (Kanaka 'Ōiwi) is a member of Pouhana O Nā Wāhine's Board of Directors. She is a spiritually guided *wāhine* that was born and raised on the island of Oahu. She has been blessed with many experiences that have guided her to serve others that span from *keiki* to *kūpuna*. She has worked in Behavioral Health for 10+ years and has served within a Health Care Organization. Dolly is currently serving the underserved women, children, and families of Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Islander descent in the *ahupua'a* of Kalihiliolaumiha through Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, an FQHC. Dolly has come to realize that at this moment, part of her *kuleana* is to connect and support people with restoring relationships through *Aloha*. She believes that through the daily living in *Aloha*, this will create, maintain, and enhance the relationships we have, not only with others but most importantly with the self. If we are able to know who we are deep inside, we will see this reflected outside of us and then will we know what *Lōkahi* truly means and feels like.



Jana L. Walker is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation and Delaware Tribe and is of Loyal Shawnee descent. Jana is a senior attorney with the Indian Law Resource Center in Helena, Montana, a nonprofit organization, established and directed by American Indians, that is dedicated to protecting the rights of Indian and Alaska Native nations and other indigenous peoples. Jana serves as the project director for the Center's Safe Women, Strong Nations project, which works to end violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and its devastating impacts on Native communities. The project does so by raising awareness domestically and internationally, providing advice to Native nations and Native women's organizations on ways to prevent violence and restore safety to Native women, and assisting Native women's organizations and Indian and Alaska Native Nations in restoring tribal criminal authority and preserving tribal civil jurisdiction. Jana received her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of New Mexico School of Law and is admitted to practice law in Montana, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia.



Sadie Young Bird is the Executive Director of the MHA Nation Tribal Victim Service Program and has been with the program as the Director for approximately 12 years. TAT Victim Services provides services for victims of crime that are associated with Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Child Sexual Violence, Elder Abuse, Human Trafficking and Missing and Murdered Victims. Prior to working with victim services, Sadie worked as a correctional supervisor and correctional officer for 8 years at the tribal facility of Gerald Tex Fox Justice Center, as well as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and GEO Private Prisons. While working at the tribal facility, Sadie worked with re-entry programs and offender services as a Case Manager. She studied Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology and Psychology. She is a member of multiple boards, including the Native Women's Society of the Great Plains and sits on the Executive Board of Directors as the President; Native Women's Alliance and sits on the Executive Board of Directors as the President; MHA Rodeo Association and sits on the Executive board as the secretary; MHA Relay Commission and sits on the Executive Board as the Secretary; Parshall School Board; and various multi-disciplinary teams and groups. As an enrolled member of the MHA Nation, Arikara and Hidatsa, Sadie lives within the bounds of MHA Nation with her husband Edward, sons Mark (14) and Dylan (11), daughters SadieBelle (7) and Hadleigh (6), and brother Jimmy. Sadie is a dedicated basketball, wrestling and cheerleading mom. This line of work is something that is near and dear to her heart, and she loves to help in any way possible in order to provide the best services to all.

Co-sponsoring Organizations

The *Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSEP)* is the leading indigenous organization for the peoples of the Peruvian Amazon. AIDSEP aims to defend and advance indigenous peoples' collective rights by working to call attention to their needs, promote their alternative development proposals that reflect their worldview and culture, strengthen their self-government, and reclaim the territorial integrity of indigenous lands. AIDSEP is comprised of 9 decentralized organizations located in the northern, central, and southern regions of the Peruvian Amazon, representing 109 local federations within 2,439 communities where more than 650,000 indigenous men, women, and youth live. AIDSEP is represented internationally as a member of COICA. (<https://aidesep.org.pe/>)

Organized in 2015, the *Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC)* is a tribal nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against women with Alaska's 229 tribes and allied organizations. AKNWRC board members are Alaska Native women raised in Alaska Native Villages and have 141 years of combined experience in tribal governments, nonprofit management, domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy (both individual crisis and systems and grassroots social change advocacy at the local, statewide, regional, national, and international levels), and other social service experience. AKNWRC's philosophy is that violence against women is rooted in the colonization of indigenous nations. (www.aknwrc.org)

Founded on April 19, 1989, the *Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB)* is the largest regional indigenous organization in Brazil, seeking to defend the rights of indigenous peoples to their land, environment, health, education, culture, and self-determination. The organization also fights for the protection and recognition of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. The organization mobilizes roughly 160 distinct peoples, representing 440,000 individuals – nearly 60% of the country's indigenous population – who collectively occupy approximately 110 million hectares of land across all 9 states of the Brazilian Amazon (Amazonas, Tocantins, Amapá, Maranhão, Rondônia, Acre, Pará, Roraima and Mato Grosso). However, these figures do not include indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. COIAB is a member of the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), one of the largest indigenous organizations in the world and of international representation and is also a member of the Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), the largest indigenous organization in Brazil. (www.coiab.org.br)

Founded in 1978 by American Indians, the *Indian Law Resource Center (ILRC)* is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to indigenous peoples of the Americas to combat racism and oppression, to protect their lands and environment, to protect their cultures, to achieve sustainable economic development and genuine self-government and to realize their other human rights. The Center's Safe Women, Strong Nation's project works with indigenous women's organizations and Native nations to end violence against indigenous women. ILRC is in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. (www.indianlaw.org)

The ***International Mayan League (IML)*** is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve and transmit the culture, history, and contributions of our ancestors in the defense of Mother Earth. Its work is guided by the vision and practices of the spiritual and traditional leaders, elders, and authorities to address the root causes contributing to discrimination, inequality and oppression of the Maya and the destruction of these communities and their environment. IML partners with allies from other indigenous nations, human rights organizations, academics, scholars, scientists and faith-based communities to stand in solidarity with the struggle of the Mayan peoples. Jointly IML addresses the many critical issues affecting not just the Maya but all of humanity and Mother Earth. (www.mayanleague.org)

The ***National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC)*** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure the safety of Native women by protecting and preserving the inherent sovereign authority of American Indian and Alaska Native nations to respond to domestic violence and sexual assault. NIWRC's Board consists of Native women leaders from American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian nations across the United States. NIWRC is a national resource center for Indian nations and Native organizations providing technical assistance, training, policy development, materials, resource information and the development of Native strategies and responses to end the violence. In 2015, NIWRC launched the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Sovereignty Initiative to defend the constitutionality and functionality of all VAWA tribal provisions. (www.niwrc.org)

The ***Native Women's Society of the Great Plains, Reclaiming Our Sacredness (NWSGP)***, is a coalition of domestic violence and/or sexual assault programs committed to the reclamation of the sacred status of women. The Society offers a vision that ends domestic and sexual violence against Native women, in all aspects – a vision of change. The Society works to support and strengthen sisterhood and local advocacy and program development efforts through culturally specific education, technical assistance training and resource implementation. The geographical area that constitutes the service area of the Society includes tribes in southern Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. (www.nativewomenssociety.com)

Pouhana O Nā Wāhine ("Pillars of Women," PONW) is a 501c3 organization tasked with the *kuleana*, to bring forward the first Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence to reduce disparities faced by Native Hawaiians. These disparities date back to the days of contact with foreigners resulting in the overthrow of our monarch to present day violence and injustice. Our vision is to restore balance of mind, body, and spirit, in order to bring our people to a state of well-being, as well as to preserve and promote Hawaiian culture to help families and communities heal from domestic and sexual violence and colonization. Our mission is to advocate for Native Hawaiian families who face challenges related to domestic and gender-based violence by exercising our inherent sovereign rights as Indigenous people of Hawaii to care for and protect our people. Collectively, the individuals of PONW have over 50 years of experience in the advocacy and social service field and are all *Kanaka 'Ōiwi* who have a passion for helping to heal generations past and present to ensure the healthiest future.