

SOLIDARITY SHAWL PROJECT

HONORING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



MIWSAC
Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition



**MENDING THE
SACRED HOOP**

ONE IN THREE

A USDOJ STUDY CONCLUDED THAT 31.4% OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN - OR MORE THAN 1 IN 3 - WILL BE RAPED DURING THEIR LIFETIME. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY FOUND THAT MOST COULD NOT THINK OF A WOMAN WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY WHO HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

-AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: MAZE OF INJUSTICE, 2006

Shawls are very symbolic to Native people. The fringe is said to represent the tears of Indian women crying for the pain and suffering the people have endured for generations; yet it also represents strength, beauty, and solidarity.

The red, teal, and purple Solidarity Shawls were created by Native women to show their solidarity and support for other Native women and children who have been victimized by sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

The teal fringe honors victims and survivors of Sexual Assault.

The purple fringe honors victims and survivors of Domestic Violence.

The red shawl honors all Native people who have survived many forms of violence throughout history.

Because shawls are so precious to our people, yet we have many Non-native supporters who wish to share in our solidarity, we have also created small wraps to place over one's arm. We appreciate this support while respecting our unique cultural practice of wearing shawls.

We also have many men who support our efforts to end violence against Native women and children. For them, we have created armbands with teal and purple ribbon to encourage participation in the restoration of respect and balance within our communities.

MAKE YOUR OWN SHAWL

Basic supplies recommendations:

2-3 yards of Red fabric

100% polyester, Gabardine, or broadcloth is recommended because they are sturdy fabrics that are wrinkle and fade resistant.

1-2 1000 yard spools of purple and/or teal fringe

We use Peacock #239 and Purple #284 for our shawls.

1 spool red thread

Needle, fine crochet hook, or tool of your choice to add fringe

Your organization logo or other customizations can also be added to your shawl.

YOUTH SHAWLS:

Shawls can be decorated with art, names, school logos, etc.

ARMBANDS FOR MENFOLK:

Armbands can be made by sewing purple and teal ribbons on red fabric and either sewing Velcro, or providing safety pins to pin around the arm.

To bring the Solidarity Shawls honoring survivors to your community or event, contact MIWSAC at 1-877-995-4800 or contact.us@miwsac.org.

The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) is a tribal coalition with statewide individual and program membership created specifically to address sexual violence against Native women and children. MIWSAC strives to raise awareness and eliminate sexual violence by reclaiming the traditional values that honor the sovereignty of our women and children.

The Sacred Hoop Tribal Coalition works to eliminate violence against Native women and its effects by promoting justice and the restoration of the traditional status of Indigenous women. The Coalition exists to build the capacity of survivors, advocates, American Indian women's organizations, and victim service providers across the state of Minnesota to end violence against Native women.



EMCEE | SHAWL PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Honoring Survivors Shawls and Armbands

Shawls are very powerful for us. The fringe is said to represent the tears of Native women crying for the pain and suffering The People have endured for generations; yet it also represents strength, beauty, and solidarity.

These women are here representing the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Sacred Hoop Coalition out of Duluth, Minnesota. Both organizations are working to end physical and sexual violence in our communities.

They do this work by connecting the historical trauma our people have experienced throughout history, the impact this violence has on our families today, and the power of Community to stand up together and say NO MORE!

They take these shawls and armbands around to dance and raise awareness about the high rates of many forms of sexual assault and domestic violence perpetrated against Native people.

The armbands are specifically to honor our menfolk who have also survived violence. We ask that you help honor all survivors throughout history.

This is _____, from _____.

(Advocate) will tell you a little more about this project and this issue.



ADVOCATE | SHAWL PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The women of the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and the Sacred Hoop Coalition came together to create the Honoring Survivors Shawls and Armbands. We chose to use the colors red, purple, and teal.

The teal fringe honors victims and survivors of Sexual Assault. The purple fringe honors victims and survivors of Domestic Violence. The color of the shawl is red to honor all Native people, of all ages, male and female, and all across the gender spectrum, who have survived many forms of violence throughout history, such as:

- Rape as a tool of war**
- Our children being taken away from us for generations**
- Adults who were sexually abused/beaten in boarding schools as children**
- Native women being killed 2 times more often than other races by domestic violence**
- One out of three Native women be sexually assaulted in their lifetime**
- Natives being targeted for use in prostitution and trafficking**
- LGBTQ/Two Spirit relatives experiencing elevated rates of violence**

Our people have carried this pain in silence too long. Dancing is a time for healing, for celebration of life, friends, family, and Community!

Please come dance with us to honor ALL SURVIVORS of the many forms of sexual and domestic violence.

Dance to restore our traditional values of respect, bravery, humility, and compassion for the survivors in our communities.

Dance for yourself, dance for a loved one, dance for our ancestors, dance for our future free from violence!