OCTOBER is
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

It IS Your Business:

Violence Against Native Women Is Not Traditional

RACISM

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: MURDER - PUNCHING - KICKING - CHOKING - PUSHING - SLAPPING - PULLING HAIR

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: RAPE - PHYSICALLY ATTACKING THE SEXUAL PARTS OF HER BODY - TREATING HER LIKE A SEX OBJECT

WHITE PRIVILEGE: Historically majority of institutions and governments are created by white men to reflect and maintain their worldview and power. Make decisions impacting everyone else. No barriers were created by or based on their color. Seen as trustworthy and credible. History, media and education are defined through their perspective. "White is right," everyone else should adapt or assimilate.

ISOLATION: Limits people of color's involvement and status everywhere. Threats of violence, attitudes limit mobility and access. Lack of "open housing." Indian reservations model for concentration camps.

INTIMIDATION: Fear of law enforcement. Government sanctions for speaking out; white supremacist organizations; looks, gestures, actions causing fear. Display weapons.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: Name-calling. Stereotyping. "Those people." Lack of images/history/culture outside dominant white culture. Questioning credibility and ability; shaming; denying individuality.

MINIMIZE, LIE & BLAME: Tokenism; distorted history; "That's in the past." Saying People of Color are racist or provoke violence. False promises. Break treaties.

USING CHILDREN: Removal of children; boarding/mission schools; assume bad parenting; deny resources and quality education.

ECONOMIC: Denial or limitations on all resources; funding requirements disallow culture; paternalism; development funding driven as opposed to community need; never enough to do it quite right; set-up to fail

COERCION/ THREATS: Profiling; "white way or no way." Followed in stores. Racist jokes. Freedom limited: kept in your place – where you can walk, live work, etc.

CULTURAL ABUSE: "English only" laws/policies. Ignoring and distorting other than majority culture. Reinterpreting cultures to "prove" inferiority. Assuming "melting pot." Ethnocentrism everywhere. Using native words, symbols for sports mascots.

RITUAL ABUSE: Representing religions other than Judeo-Christian as "satanic," uncivilized, etc. Holidays allow only for Christian. Outlawing of Native American practices. Desecrating sacred places. Holding human remains and sacred objects in museums. Theft of native rituals for economic profit.

POWER AND CONTROL (UNNATURAL)

RACISM is the belief that certain races are inherently superior to other races. Racism requires the ability to exercise power and control over others, dehumanize and make "others" fear for the quality of their lives and existence.

Sacred Circle - National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women