CSEC Action Team Quarterly Meeting | September 7, 2022





Mission Statement

The California Child Welfare's CSEC Action Team, created in 2013, brings together key stakeholders-community based and grassroots organizations, public agencies, lived experience experts, service providers, parent partners, judges, lawyers, and interested community members to address CSE. We meet on a quarterly basis to grow awareness about CSE, identify challenges facing California's young people impacted by CSE and their families and caregivers, share promising practices, and develop tools and resources. Our goal is to spur members across California to take action to better serve youth and their families who have been impacted by exploitation.

Calling Into the Meeting

- * Register in advance to receive your call-in information
- * https://tinyurl.com/SeptemberCSEAT
- * Please complete our survey at the end of the meeting <u>http://tinyurl.com/CSECATSurvey</u>

Need help accessing Zoom?

Email <u>mcontreras@youthlaw.org</u>

Roadmap

- **1**. Welcome & Introductions
- 2. Advisory Board Updates
- 3. Legislative Update
- 4. Supporting Native Youth Impacted by Exploitation: A Call to Action for Advocates
- 5. Next Steps
- 6. Break
- 7. Facilitated Break Outs Supporting Native youth impacted by CSE
- 8. Breakout Debrief
- 9. Member Opportunities and Announcements
- **10. Closing Thoughts and Action Items**

Advisory Board Updates



Angelica Zuniga, CEO, Redeemed Home

April Grayson, Policy Associate, Young Women's Freedom Center

2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2022-2023 BUDGET

- \$25,000,000 to develop and implement innovative placement pilot programs for youth who are, or who are at risk of becoming, victims of commercial sexual exploitation
- \$20,000,000 to the Office of Emergency Services for grants related to services for victims of human trafficking.

CHAPTERED BILLS

- AB 1661 (DAVIES) Includes barbering and cosmetology businesses among the establishments required to post a notice regarding slavery and human trafficking
- SB 357 (WIENER) Repeals provisions of current law that criminalize loitering for the intent to engage in sex work
- SB 382 (CABALLERO) Clarifies that a court has the ability to issue a restraining order protecting a minor in a case involving commercial sexual exploitation

BILLS AWAITING GOVERNOR'S RESPONSE

- AB 1314 (RAMOS) Emergency notification: Feather Alert: • endangered indigenous people
- AB 1788 (CUNNINGHAM) Sex trafficking: hotels: actual • knowledge or reckless disregard: civil penalty
- AB 1820 (ARAMBULA) Division of Labor Standards Enforcement: • Labor Trafficking Unit
- AB 2130 (CUNNINGHAM) Emergency medical services: training •
- AB 2169 (GIPSON) Criminal procedure
- SB 1017 (EGGMAN) Leases: termination of tenancy: abuse or violence CSEC AT 9-7-22

BILLS NO LONGER MOVING

- AB 1665 (SEYARTO) Trafficking a minor: plea bargains
- AB 1970 (BOERNER-HORVATH) Solicitation of prostitution from a minor
- AB 2553 (GRAYSON) Human trafficking Act: California Multidisciplinary Alliance to Stop Trafficking (California MAST)
- AB 2628 (REYES) Dependency: victims of human trafficking
- SB 1042 (GROVE) Violent felonies: serious felonies: human trafficking
- SB 1072 (DAHLE) Violent felonies: human trafficking

Jessica Valadez, Attorney, Equal Justice Works Fellow, National Center for Youth Law

Raechel Ibarra, Case Manager, Children's Law Center Supporting Native Youth Impacted by Exploitation: A Call to Action for Advocates



Land Acknowledgment

Let's begin today by remembering the missing voices and experiences of the Nisenan and Miwok people, the land Sacramento sits on today.

We honor Indigenous people by doing work that uplifts their voices and by dismantling white supremacy every day.



Content Warning





Road Map

- About Us + Our Work
- Intro to the Issue
- What does Trafficking in Native Communities Look Like Today?
- Particular Vulnerabilities of Native Youth
- Supporting Native Youth
- MMIP
- Data, Disproportionality, and the Impacts of Exploitation on Native youth
- Recommendations
- Process + Development of the Report
- Next Steps
- Questions

Introductions



Jessica Valadez



Raechel Ibarra



Introduction to the Issue



"One way of understanding colonization is that it removed Native peoples' life options, with prostitution* being one of the few options left for some women" *Garden of Truth*





What We Know



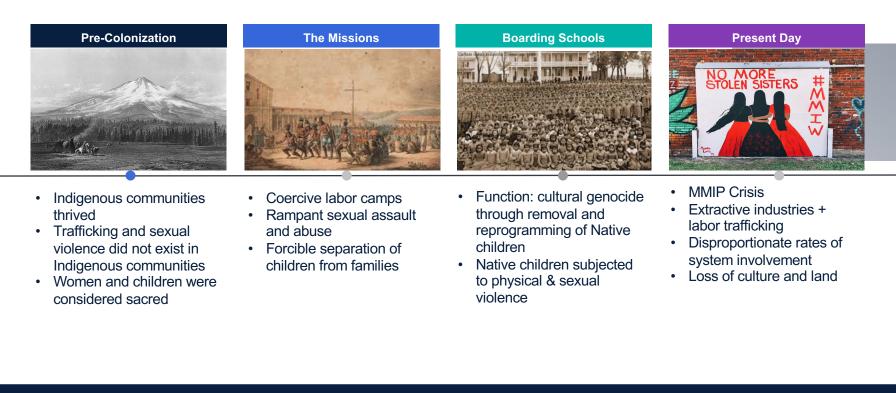
California has the second-largest population of Native American people in the United States and is home to one of the largest populations of systems-involved youth.

Native youth are disproportionately represented in these systems, leading to increased vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation.

Despite changes to law & policy in CA that recognize commercial sexual exploitation as child abuse, advocates continue to face challenges when supporting Native youth and families.

Why are Native Youth Disproportionately Impacted by Exploitation?

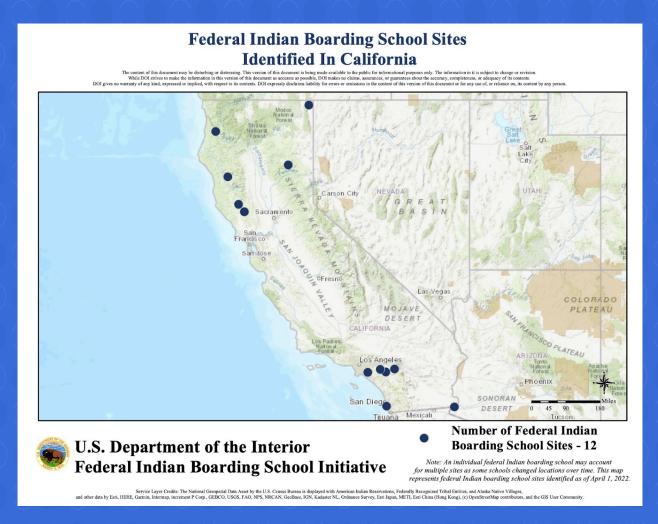
To fully understand the prevalence of exploitation in Native communities, we must first understand how colonialism and the subjugation of Indigenous peoples throughout history have created cycles of intergenerational trauma that affect youth today and create vulnerability to trafficking.





"The attempt to annihilate American Indians, whether through military murders, child removal or assimilation, is central to American history. Native peoples' experience in the United States is marked by surviving subjugation, occupation, and resisting assimilation and colonization" Garden of Truth









Connection Between History on Modern-Day Exploitation

- Colonizers brought "system of prostitution" and embedded it immediately into cultural structures implemented on this land
 - The sex trade and sexual violence did not exist in Native communities prior to colonization
 - Objectification and dehumanization of Native women began with colonization and continues today with high rates of violence against Native women and children
- Boarding schools destroyed family bonds and the repercussions will be felt for generations
- Assimilationist U.S. Government policies disconnected Native people from their land, families, and culture creating vulnerability to trafficking
 - Separation from land, family, and culture
- Native people are portrayed in modern media as sex objects or objects in general (e.g., mascots, Halloween costumes, etc.) leading to further dehumanization
 - Easier to exploit someone you don't see as human

Sources: Vida Castaneda; Garden of Truth Report

Defining Historical and Intergenerational Trauma

- Historical trauma refers to the "cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma" (Brave Heart, 2003, 1998).
- Within the overarching concept of historical trauma is the sub-theory **of intergenerational trauma**, which examines the effects of trauma across generations in one family.
 - These intergenerational models explain the issues and struggles, such as trafficking and physical and sexual violence, which continue to affect Indigenous people, stemming from the violent and oppressive efforts of Western European colonization for generations.



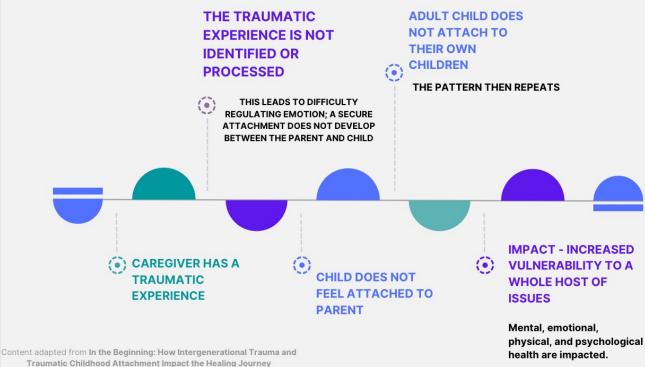
Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart

Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart is a Native American social worker, associate professor and mental health expert. She is best known for developing a model of historical trauma for the Lakota people, which would eventually be expanded to encompass indigenous populations the world over.

Source: https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/resource/report-htla-class-5-recommendations



Impact of Intergenerational Trauma on Future Generations



Shared Hope International - https://vimeo.com/474930517/0d8ede202c



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Connection Between Intergenerational Trauma and Exploitation

- DAFFOD

LAC - PINE

Garden of Truth highlights the following links between trauma and trafficking:

- The overwhelming history of trauma • Native people have endured is associated with high rates of substance abuse, depression, and suicide.
- Social scientists have also documented high rates of other social harms, such as extreme poverty, homelessness, and chronic health problems in Native communities.
- These social harms function as risk • factors that create a vulnerability to trafficking among Native people.

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Shattered Hearts emphasized that sex trafficking is a continuation of colonization.

The report found that every risk factor noted in the report was directly linked to historical trauma and cultural loss.

Risk Factors:

- Runaway, "thrown away", homeless
- **Repeated exposure to** abuse, exploitation, violence
- Physical or sexual victimization
- Normalization of exploitation and violence
- Substance misuse (by parent and/or personally)
- Systems involvement
- Failure to finish high school
- Mental and emotional vulnerability

What does this look like today?



The Role of Racism in Targeting Native Youth

Colonization reduced Native women and children to commodities to be bought, sold, and used. This continues today.

- Traffickers target Native youth because they are seen as "exotic" and "marketable."
- · Native youth can "pass" for other races and ethnicities
- · Native youth are fetishized for their "exoticism"

Available Data Confirms this:

- Sex buyers purchase women in prostitution on the basis of the buyer's ethnic stereotypes
- 42% of women had been racially insulted by pimp/buyer
- Racist generalizations about alcohol abuse and promiscuity were common, as were comments about skin color.





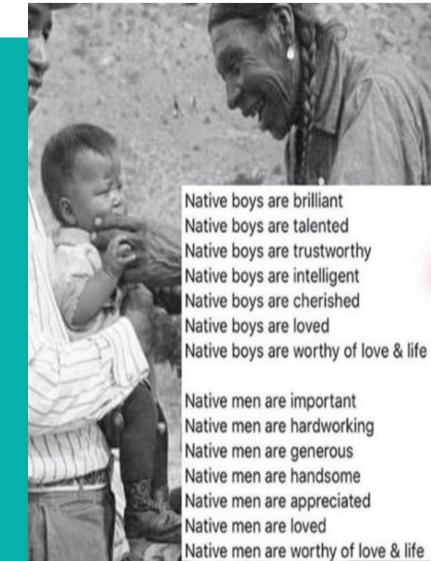


Violence Against Native Women

- More than 4 in 5 Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime with 56% having experienced sexual violence
- 79% of Native women that took part in the Garden of Truth Study (2011) had been sexually abused by an average of 4 perpetrators
- Survey of 4 sites across U.S. and Canada found that 40% of women involved in sex trafficking identified as Native American or First Nations



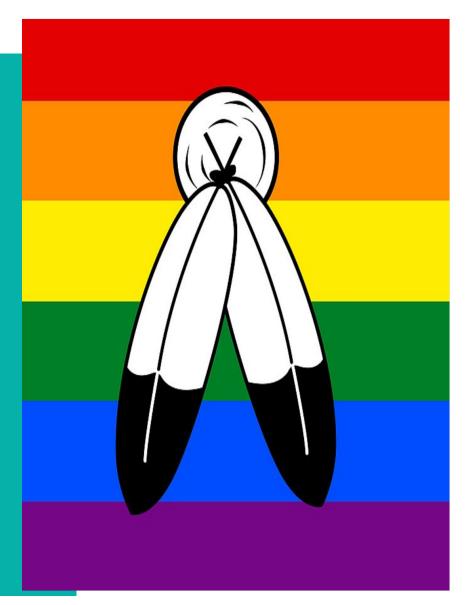
Art by: Jamie Ray John, an Anishinaabe and Korean two-spirit artist



Violence Against Native Men and Boys

- More than 4 in 5 Native men have experienced violence in their lifetime with 27.5% having experienced sexual violence
- More than 1 in 3 Native men have experienced violence in the past year
- Native men are 1.3x as likely to experience violence as their (non-Hispanic) White peers
- No available stats on trafficking of Native boys





2-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ Youth

- The term "Two-Spirit" is a Native American term that refers to a person who identifies as having both a masculine and feminine spirit.
- Using the term "Two-Spirit " is a way to step back from mainstream LGBTQ+ terminology, connect to collective history, culture and spirituality, and reclaim traditional Native identity and roles in community
- Two-Spirit people served various roles in their communities, including:
 - Serving as experts in traditional arts
 - Cultural preservation
 - Filling roles as healers, spiritual guides, and medicine people





What we Know about Exploitation and 2-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ Youth

- There is a critical gap in information about 2-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing exploitation.
- Existing research indicates that 2-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ youth are at higher risk for sexual exploitation than their cisgender and non-Native peers
- Results from the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey reflect that 2-Spirit-identified Native youth reported significantly higher rates of trading sex, exceeding the rates of other youth.



PREVALENCE BY GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Native+ students of many gender identities reported trading sex, but LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer and Questioning+) and/or 2-Spirit (2S)-identified Native+ youth reported rates far exceeding the rates of other youth.

For example, 4.8% of LGBTQ+2S youth reported that they traded sex compared to 1.4% of ALL students who answered yes to the question about sex trading in the MSS.

NATIVE+ CIS HET* BOYS	Q NATIVE+ CIS HET* GIRLS	NATIVE+ LGBTQ+2S
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*Cis = Cisgender is a term for those whose gender aligns with their birth assigned sex. Het = heterosexual (straight).

Source: The Minnesota Youth Sex Trading Project (MYST), 2019 Minnesota Student Survey on Trading Sex/Exploitation among Native+ High School Students Sharing Format slide 8 (2022), https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pOP8lyzOXpd7hlSsb7BKEACvDnA1aQre/edit#slide=id.p8.



Why are Native Youth Particularly Vulnerable to Exploitation?





Particular Vulnerabilities of Native Youth

Communities that experience the following characteristics should be on alert for the presence of human and sexual trafficking:

- Historical trauma and cultural loss
- Significant poverty and/or economic isolation/dependence
- High rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences in the population
- High numbers of homeless and runaway youth
- High rates of family surveillance and involvement with child welfare system
- High rates of exposure to violence (direct and/or indirect, through domestic, intimate partner violence)
- High rates of personal or family/caregiver addiction to substances
- Low levels of police or law enforcement presence
- Influx of a transient, cash-rich workforce

https://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/TraffickingBrief.pdf

Child Sexual Abuse & Familial Exploitation

Studies indicate that extensive childhood sexual abuse often precedes commercial sexual exploitation.

- *Garden of Truth* found that most, if not all, of the women interviewed were sexually abused as children and this impacted their ability to recognize sexual exploitation
- Women interviewed reported that they viewed sexual abuse by a family member as relatively harmless compared to sexual exploitation by someone outside the family
- Advocates also described childhood sexual abuse as the key experience setting the stage for Native girls' entry into the sex trade.
- Information gathered throughout the development of this publication confirmed the link between sexual abuse and subsequent exploitation
- In many cases, the sexual abuse occurred at the hands of a close family member and the family member was frequently protected for the following reasons:
 - The family member was an elder or held high status in the community
 - The family member was the sole source of financial support for the family
 - Family members lived in fear of the perpetrator and were afraid to confont them
- In other cases, survivors reported being sold to others by their own parents, who may have been sold by their own parents as well—also known as intergenerational exploitation or intergenerational cycles of trauma.



Native youth experience PTSD at the same rate as veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

According to a Department of Justice advisory committee report, 22% of American Indian and Alaskan Native youth have PTSD—three times higher than the national rate.



Top Issues Facing Native Youth in 2020

Violence, trauma & substance abuse



Poverty, unemployment, & lack of resources



Suicide and self-harm



School dropouts & education disparities

Poor mental health



Police or law enforcement, police brutality and violence

Missing and murdered indigenous women & girls



Generational impacts of imprisonment & youth incarceration

https://unityinc.org/native-youth/national-unity-councils-top-ten-issues-faces-native-youth-in-2020/

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How Does Exploitation Impact Native Youth?





Impacts of Exploitation on Native Youth

- 1. Physical, emotional, mental, and psychological struggles this can look like:
 - Chronic health problems, STIs, substance misuse, high rates of suicide, and many other issues.

2. **Disengagement from school** leading to truancy and high dropout rates, making it difficult to obtain employment outside of the sex trade.

- 3. A lack of safety in a young person's life
 - Community reluctance to intervene
 - Mistrust of law enforcement

4. Placement Challenges

- Dearth of culturally-appropriate homes
- Lack of placements for youth experiencing exploitation

5. **Legal Challenges**, including forced criminality and having a criminal record

....and SO MANY MORE!

Supporting Native Youth



Culture is Prevention

Why is access to culture important?

- Culture fills voids emptied during colonization
- When we practice culture, it helps us live in harmony
- Culture does not address only one facet of life culture supports us holistically
- Culture is protective and instrumental in healthy development





What's Needed to Better Support Native Youth Experiencing Exploitation?

- Culturally Appropriate Services and Programming
 - -CSE-Specific services
 - -In-Patient Drug & Alcohol treatment
- Access to Indigenous Healing Modalities while in care
- Advocates and Mentors with Lived Experience
- Youth-Centered Activities (especially in rural areas)
- Access to culture without having to earn it
- Services geared towards youth (and not toward adults)
- Access to housing, healthcare, and community
- Education on healthy relationships and what trafficking looks like
- Supportive relationships







The Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People



"Missing and murdered Indigenous women are a consequence of hundreds of years of genocide and perpetuation of this continual concept of what Indigenous women are." Sovereign Bodies Institute





What is the MMIP Crisis?

- Native American people are reported missing or are murdered at disproportionately high rates.
- A 2018 study by the Urban Indian Health Institute identified 506 unique cases of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls across 71 selected cities in the U.S.
- California had the sixth highest number of cases, with San Francisco cracking the top ten cities in the U.S. with the highest number of MMIWG cases.
- These statistics are likely a significant undercount due to many factors, including underreporting, racial misclassification, and distrust of law enforcement.
- In response to this crisis, Native people have united to raise awareness, organize, and support families who have lost a loved one.





Why is this Crisis Happening?

The crisis of MMIP is NOT NEW – It is part of a spectrum of violence that Native people have experienced since colonization which includes:

- Discrimination and Racist Attitudes
- Lack of Response by Law Enforcement + U.S. Government
- Lack of Legal Protections
- Systematic Erosion of Tribal Sovereignty





The Connection Between MMIP, Trafficking, and Extractive Industries

Extractive industries involve the removal of non-renewable raw materials such as oil, gas, metals, and minerals from the earth and are typically located in remote areas that are difficult to access—frequently near reservations.

These industries typically attract a mostly male workforce and are typically surrounded by "man camps" constructed to house workers. These camps are hotbeds of rape, domestic violence, and sex and labor trafficking.

Proximity to these industries can lead to high rates of violence against Native people, including going missing, being murdered, or sex and labor trafficking.

Certain risk factors, such as domestic and sexual violence, high rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), homelessness, and substance misuse, put Native people at higher risk for going missing, being murdered, or experiencing sex and labor trafficking.



"A john said to me, 'I thought we killed all of you" -Trafficking Survivor in Minnesota



Steps in a More Positive Direction



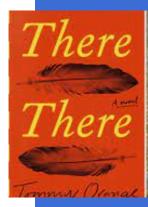
Shifting Landscape of Indigenous Representation in Media















Legislative Shifts in California

AB 2022: Racist Place Names



AB 1314: Feather Alert



Secretary Haaland Creates New Missing & Murdered Unit to Pursue Justice for Missing or Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives

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Data, Disproportionality, and the Impacts of Exploitation



"While missing person statistics are compiled for every other demographic, none exist for Native American women." - Wind River





Native Youth are Disproportionately Involved in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

Disproportionate Child Welfare Involvement

- Native youth are 4.22x more likely than their white peers to be in foster care
 - Second to black youth who are 5.26x likely to be in foster care
- Native youth are 2x as likely to be investigated by the child welfare system than their white counterparts, second only to black youth
- Native youth are 3.5x more likely to enter foster care than their white peers
- Native girls are 1% of the population but 3.5% of detained and committed girls in JJ system
- Tribal youth are more than 3x as likely to be incarcerated than their white peers
 - This racial disparity more than doubled between 2010 and 2019

Disproportionate Juvenile Justice Involvement

- Native American girls make up 1% of the general youth population but 3.5% of detained and committed girls in the Juvenile Justice System
- Tribal youth are more than three times as likely to be detained or committed in juvenile facilities as their white peers.
- In seven states (including California), Tribal youth are at least three times more likely to be held in placement as are white youth
- North Carolina and California have seen their rates of racial disparity more than double

This is Not the Full Picture

- Currently, there is no publicly available data that gives us a precise understanding of the prevalence of exploitation among Native youth in California.
- We DO know that Native youth are disproportionately involved in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice systems and experience higher rates of violence than their non-Native peers.
- These experiences, alone and together, create vulnerability to various forms of exploitation.



Data Limitations: What We Don't Know and Why

It is difficult to understand the scope of exploitation in Native communities for the following reasons:

- CSE and labor trafficking are difficult to track
- Data around CSE & Labor Trafficking are not consistently captured
- Data around Native identity are not consistently or accurately captured
- The data that are captured are not publicly available



What Does This All Mean?

The number of Native youth in California, the rate of their involvement in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and the prevalence of exploitation is doubtlessly much higher than we are aware.

To address this, we need:

- Training around sensitive inquiry about Native identity
- Data collection and reporting systems that accurately capture data on Native identity, designed in consultation with Native communities
- Consistent methods of capturing data around CSE & Labor Trafficking

Without these, it is impossible to know for certain how many Native youth are impacted by commercial exploitation



Recommendations









RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BETTER SERVING NATIVE YOUTH IMPACTED BY EXPLOITATION

CENTER THE VOICES OF YOUTH AND LIVED EXPERIENCE EXPERTS

Change is driven by the people who are most directly impacted by exploitation. Youth and survivor voices, priorities, and leadership should be centered in generating ideas, planning, decision-making, execution, and evaluation.

CULTURE IS PREVENTION

Colonization created loss in the lives of Native people; access to culture creates meaning, belonging, and purpose. For Native youth to thrive—and not just survive—access to culture is absolutely essential.

PROPER IDENTIFICATION IS KEY

Youth who are not identified as Native cannot be connected to cultural supports that can prevent exploitation. Early identification of exploitation is also critical in preventing further abuse and ensuring youth get access to the services and supports they need.

KNOW YOUR TRIBAL PARTNERS

Building relationships with Tribal partners helps create trust, which is essential to prevention and intervention efforts. Tribes know how to best serve their communities and often have supports and services youth can access to get connected to culture. Cultivating a great relationship with Tribal partners has a direct impact on the youth you serve.

FOLLOW THE LETTER & SPIRIT OF ICWA

The Indian Child Welfare Act is considered the gold standard in child welfare practice. Compliance with ICWA and "Spirit of ICWA" is important because tribes have an interest in protecting their children and children thrive when they are connected to their families, communities, and their culture.

BUILD ROBUST DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

Without proper inquiry, identification, and robust data collection and reporting, it is impossible to know for certain how many Native youth we are serving and how many are impacted by exploitation. Allocate resources to support data collection in ways that align with Tribal best practices, including those related to ownership of data.

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SUPPORTING NATIVE YOUTH IMPACTED BY EXPLOITATION

A Call to Action for Advocates

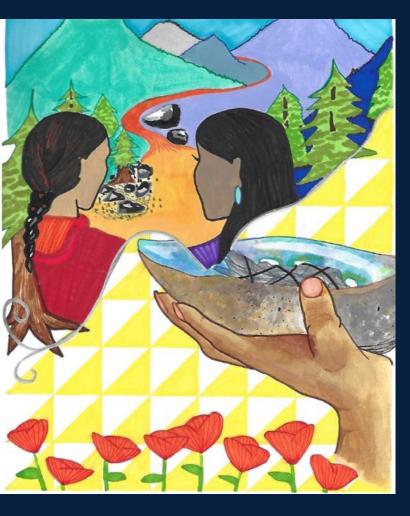
COMING SOON

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Process & Development



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About the Cover

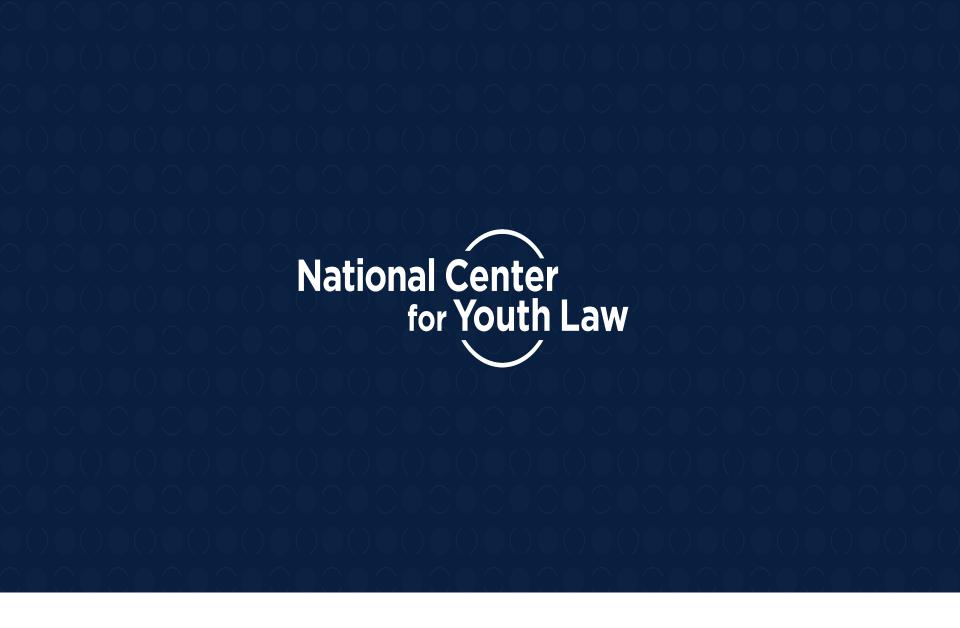
Title of the Piece: "Look Up" By: Naishian Richards

Naishian is a 24-year-old college student from Humboldt County in Northern CA. She is from the Duckwater Shoshone Tribes in Nevada and a descendant of the Hoopa, Yurok, and Redwoods Creek Tribes in California.



Next Steps National Center for Youth Law Feedback or Questions? Please email us at: valadez.jessicac@gmail.com ibarrar@clcsac.org







Melissa Gomez, Project Director, Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT)



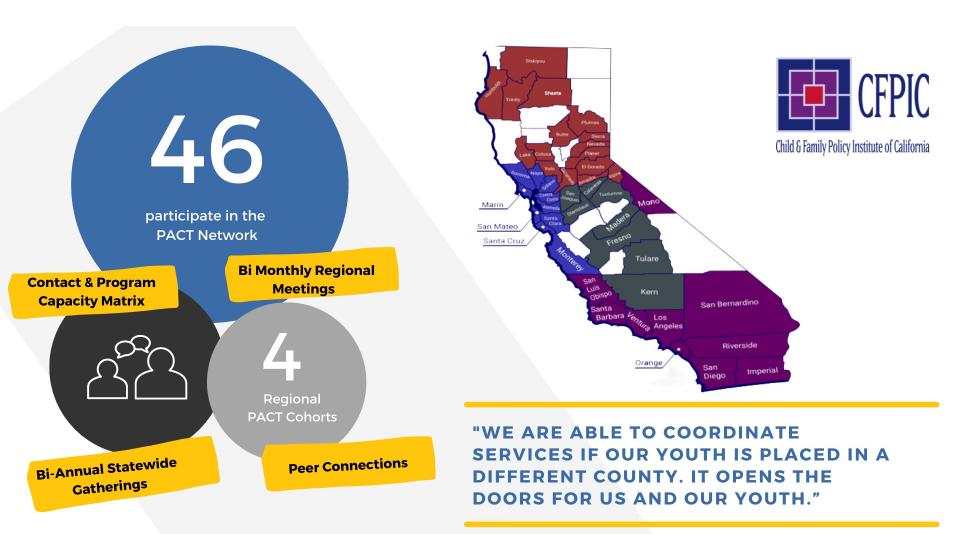
Preventing & Addressing Child Trafficking Project

ENGAGING CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES AND THEIR PARTNERS, TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED – CROSS SYSTEM STATEWIDE MODEL OF COLLABORATION.

> Our mission is to improve services to children and youth at risk of or experiencing sex or labor trafficking in California.

































"PACT'S BIGGEST STRENGTH IS THEIR CONSULTANT TEAM AND THE WAY THAT THEY BRING THEIR LENS TO SUPPORT US."

http://pact.cfpic.org

Next Steps...

- Learn from You! Break Out Sessions Today
- Sharing Report & Recommendations
- Hosting Upcoming Learning Opportunities
- Highlighting County Level Partnerships
- Future Training Development

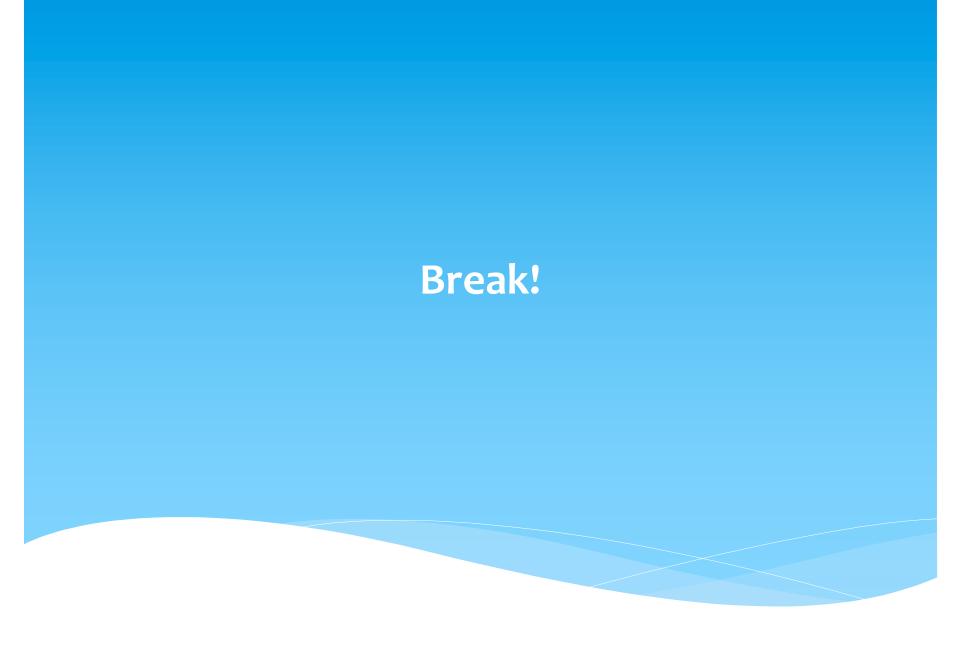




Preventing & Addressing Child Trafficking Project contact: Melissa.Gomez@cfpic.org



pact.cfpic.org | pact.cfpic.org/events | pact.cfpic.org/resources



Facilitated Break Outs - Supporting Native youth impacted by CSE

Breakout Debrief

Member Opportunities and Announcements

Closing Thoughts and Action Items

Action Items

- Attend the November panel featuring service providers and people with lived experience who will talk about practical strategies for serving Native Youth
- Utilize the resources Vida, Jessica and Raechel shared to find out what tribes are around you and the resources that are available
- Discuss how you can improve practices to identify and serve Native youth and their families within your county leadership
- Fill out the meeting evaluation

Please Complete Our Meeting Survey: http://tinyurl.com/CSECATSurvey

Thank You

CSEC Action Team Staff

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Future CSEC Action Team Meetings:

December 7, 2022