



# Indigenous Solutions

## Working with Native American Survivors of Sexual Assault

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RESPONSES FOR URBAN NATIVES TTA:

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# Domestic and Sexual Violence against AI/AN Women

**More than 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women (39.8 percent) have experienced violence in the past year.**

This includes —

- ▶ **14.4 percent who have experienced sexual violence.**
- ▶ 11.6 percent who have experienced stalking.
- ▶ 25.5 percent who have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.



# Advocates Working with Trauma

Layers of trauma

Systemic oppression

COVID and trauma

# Our Advocacy

As Advocates, we are biased supporters of victims and survivors.

- This means our work is with and on behalf of the victim/survivor.
- We work with them to have their voices be heard, options presented to them, their needs met, and their decisions supported.
- To advocate is do more than provide services to survivors. We work holistically for them.



# Opportunity to Support Native Survivor Healing

- Commitment to work intertribally
- Requires intention on our part
- Building space and support





*Supporting the Sacred, Urban Indian Health Institute. 2022*

*Photo credit: Monycka Snowbird (Anishinaabe)*



*Learning how to weave cedar, carve, make traditional regalia, learning about traditional medicine and eating traditional foods. Dancing and singing with my tribe makes me feel whole again.*

*I felt so broken and hurt that I had to have spiritual counseling through a tribal elder. I also requested to have a prayer done by my medicine man to make me feel that I could get through everything mentally and spiritually.*

*Connecting with family and tribal community has been the most healing.*





# Our advocacy work centers our traditional values of respect and cooperation



- The survivor is our guide.
- Safety is first and last, and everything in between.
- Remove barriers.
- Provide comfort and support.
- Medicines for healing and cleansing the mind and body
- Education about the crime.
- Strengthening the spirit, body, mind will provide overall healing.
- Options for the victim, referrals.





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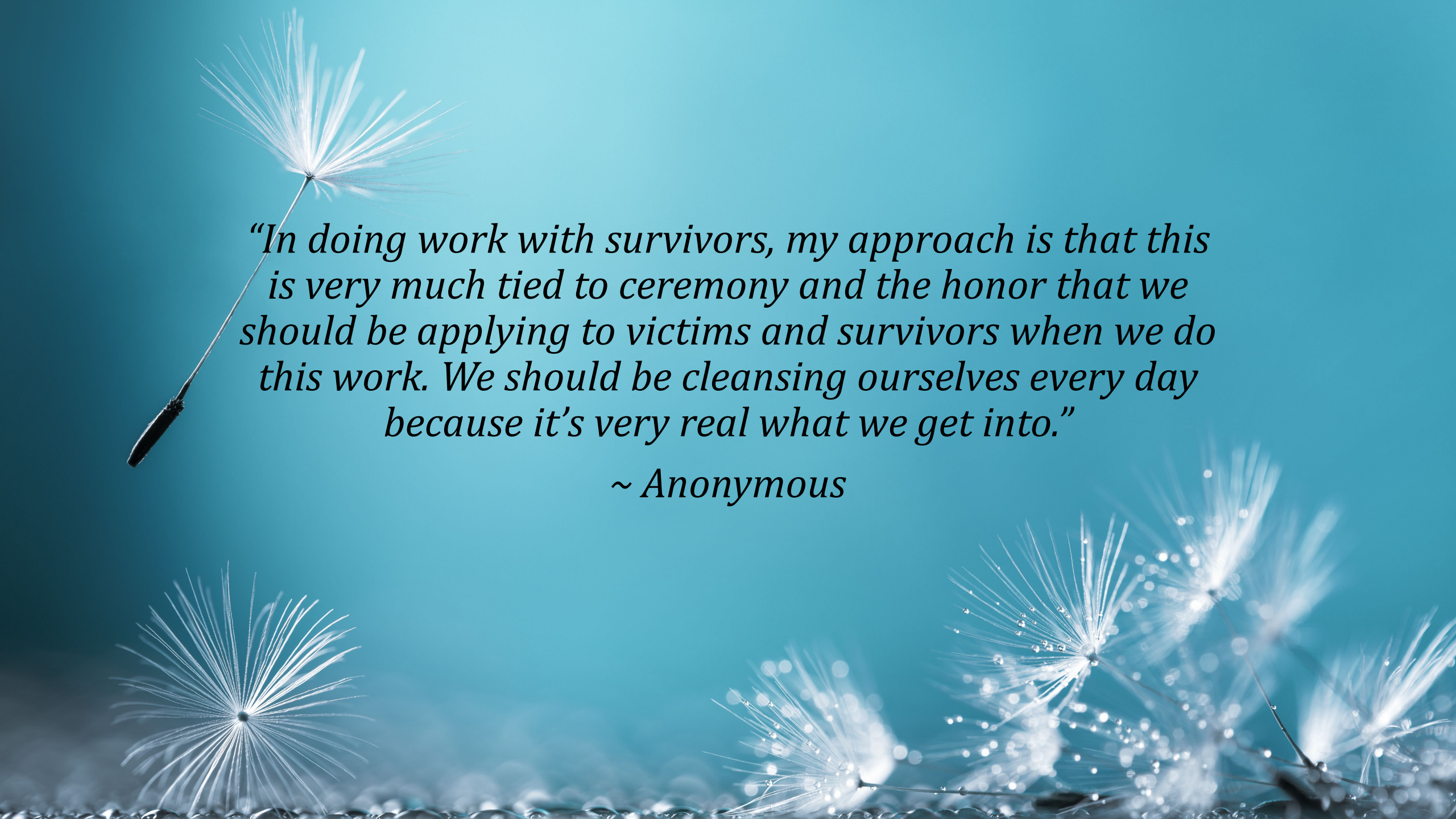
*To achieve wholeness we must first be open to learning from one another, when we learn from one another, we become the strength of many instead of the strength of one.*

OUR INTERCONNECTED  
RELATIONSHIPS

# Justice for the Victim

**Recognize that there are multiple ways for victims to seek justice.**

- Mainstream criminal justice interventions
- Use of more traditional practices of the tribe related to holding perpetrators accountable
- Other victim-identified strategies



*“In doing work with survivors, my approach is that this is very much tied to ceremony and the honor that we should be applying to victims and survivors when we do this work. We should be cleansing ourselves every day because it’s very real what we get into.”*

*~ Anonymous*

# Relationship Building

The important partnership between Advocates and SANE/SAFE programs and medial personnel require intentional engagement.

- Visit each other's program. Use it as an opportunity to educate each other about the work you do.
- Connect regularly. Use time to build common agreement on how the two programs will work together.
- Become mutual resources that support each other's work.





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Provide training, expertise and problem-solving strategies to meet the challenges of addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Offer in-person and online educational opportunities, peer-to-peer consultations, on-site technical assistance, and tailored assistance.