



PRESS RELEASE

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
October 14, 2013

**The Status of Navajo Women, Gender Violence, & the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples**

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC) and the University of New Mexico's American Studies Department will host two conversations with Diné medicine people on the status of Navajo women and gender violence on October 31st and November 1st, 2013. Both will be held at the Fort Defiance Chapter House, 8:30-5:00 PM. The discussions will also explore how the well-being of women and Navajo LGBTQ can be addressed within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

These sessions with Diné medicine people will outline traditional Navajo gender roles and explore the current status of Diné women and the extent to which their roles have shifted. Also, recognition and discussion of Navajo LGBTQ and their roles in Navajo culture and society as well as violence against LGBTQ communities will be explored. In an effort to understand how the Navajo Nation has shifted in its treatment of gender, this working session will also explore how the imposition of a modern Western-style government has contributed to gender violence in the form of gender inequalities in the work place and within the Navajo government. For more information, contact the NNHRC at (928) 871-7436.

The Status of Navajo Women & Gender Violence Is a Human Rights Issue

Conversations with Diné Medicine People

Medicine people:

Marle Salt, Kayenta, AZ

Philmer Bluehouse, Fort Defiance, AZ

Rita Gilmore, Chinle, AZ

Henry Barber, Bread Springs, AZ

When: October 31 & November 1, 2013

Where: Fort Defiance Chapter House, Ft. Defiance, Arizona

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm daily



The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission & the University of New Mexico's American Studies Dept. Invites you to participate in dialogues with Diné medicine people on traditional gender roles and the epidemic violence against Navajo women that we are currently seeing on the Navajo Nation, in our communities, and the surrounding bordertowns. We begin by articulating Navajo traditional gender roles and then consider how modern governance has transformed these roles. We include Navajo LGBTQ in our forum. We ask, how is the status of Navajo women and gender violence a human rights issue?

Discussion, Dialogue, & Small Groups:

- Human Rights
- Navajo Women & Government
- Traditional Leadership
- Traditional Stories
- LGBTQ
- Civil Rights
- Gender Discrimination
- Nation & Government



Sponsored by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the University of New Mexico American Studies Department

