



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director  
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer  
(928) 274-2758

[nnopvp.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2021

## Navajo Nation Diné Action Plan signed into law to address public safety issues using Navajo cultural principles



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Mark Freeland, Diné Action Plan workgroup members, and Navajo Nation Executive Branch Division Directors during the Diné Action Plan signing ceremony at Twins Arrows Navajo Casino Resort in Leupp, Ariz., on October 14, 2021.

**LEUPP, Ariz.** – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by First Lady Phefelia Nez, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Mark Freeland, Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, and Diné Action Plan workgroup members, as he signed into law the Navajo Nation Diné Action Plan through Resolution CS-51-21, which utilizes the traditional Navajo planning model of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahat’á (planning), liná (action), and Siihásin (reflection) to help address public safety, violence, substance abuse, suicide, and missing and murdered Diné relatives on the Navajo Nation. The legislation was sponsored by Delegate Crotty and approved by the Council.

“We thank the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Judicial Branch, Executive Branch divisions and programs, Yvonne Kee Billison, and Navajo citizens who provided assistance and support for the development of the Diné Action Plan over several years. The plan is embedded with the teachings and disciplines of our ancestors and Navajo elders that will help improve strategies, policies, and procedures for the health and well-being of our Navajo people. Our sacred traditional and cultural knowledge can defeat any Naayéé’ (monsters) and battles, including the modern-day social monsters that plague our Nation. Through these teachings, we can create an environment of healing, strength, and hope for future generations,” said President Nez.

The Diné Action Plan was formerly known as the Tribal Action Plan, developed in 1987. In 2016, Navajo leaders recognized the need to revive the plan to include an improved methodology for collaboration and communication based on Navajo values and principles.

"The Diné Action Plan highlights the Sa’ah Naaghái Bik’eh Hózhóón principles (Navajo Lifeway, grounded in Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahat’á (planning), liná (life), and Sihasin (reflection). The restoration of hozhó, balance, and harmony within our homes and society requires the implementation of the Sa’ah Naaghái Bik’eh Hózhóón principles to identify problems, investigate, analyze, and strategically resolve issues. Our ancestors and elders used the same framework to survive and heal, and we must now use those teachings to overcome the challenges we face. The plan will further support Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives by establishing a data institute, victim services, law enforcement coordination, behavioral health resources, and media campaign," said Delegate Crotty, who was instrumental in the development of the Diné Action Plan.

“The Navajo principles that guides the plan are the values, teachings, and disciplines that we were raised with in our traditional hooghan (homes). We encourage parents and caregivers to use the teachings within the plan to encourage your children and grandchildren. The Navajo principles can also help address education, mental health, child development, and spiritual wellbeing. The Office of the First Lady and Second Lady look forward to utilize the plan to address our priorities to heal families and communities,” said First Lady Nez.

An advisory group will take the initiative to develop and implement the goals and objectives of the Diné Action Plan. The plan will also serve as an informational and data resource to provide opportunities for Navajo programs and community initiatives to receive grant funding and collaborations to combat social issues.

“The Diné Action Plan is history in the making and will help to defeat modern-day monsters. The plan provides a clear and inspirational direction to intervene and prevent social ills that impact Navajo individuals, families, and communities. We encourage Navajo citizens to become a part of the process of healing and harmony. Together, we can overcome the adversities that harm our communities,” said Vice President Lizer.

“We appreciate this collaboration between the three branches to get this important policy in place. Working together with all our resources we can instill more hope, create more

opportunities for our people who are facing challenges, and help them to heal and prosper,” stated Delegate Freeland.

The Nez-Lizer Administration is committed to utilizing the Diné Action Plan to address and accomplish public safety priorities that ensure the health and safety of Navajo communities.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.