



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

The Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 13, 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am honored to invite you to the United States Department of Justice's fourth annual government-to-government Consultation on Violence Against Native Women. As mandated by section 903 of Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, the purpose of the Consultation is to solicit recommendations from tribal government leaders on the following three topics:

- Administering grant funds appropriated for tribal governments and programs created to benefit tribal governments by the original Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation;
- Enhancing the safety of Indian women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
- Strengthening the Federal response to crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

This year's Consultation will be held on **October 30, 2009** at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota. As many of you may know, United States Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., will host a Tribal Nations Listening Session on Public Safety and Law Enforcement on October 28-29, 2009 at the same location. The Department has decided to hold its Consultation on Violence against Native Women immediately after the conclusion of the Attorney General's Listening Session to eliminate the need for tribal leaders to make multiple trips to attend these two important events.

I plan to welcome you to the Consultation on the morning of October 30th. Because I will be unable to attend the entire Consultation, I have asked Catherine Pierce, the Acting Director of the Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), to serve as the Department's lead representative at the Consultation. In addition, both the Deputy Attorney General and I are sending members of our staffs and representatives from other components within the Department to attend the Consultation, listen to your recommendations, and bring your concerns to the highest levels of the Department.

OVW conducted a planning teleconference with tribal leaders on September 30, 2009 to discuss the agenda for this year's Consultation and remains committed to seeking the input and recommendations of tribal leaders throughout the planning process for this year's Consultation. A draft agenda for this year's event has been posted at www.ovwtribalconsultation.com.

The Department's goal is to include as many tribal leaders and representatives at this year's Consultation as possible. If your tribe currently receives grant funding from OVW, you may use your travel funding to pay for the cost of your travel to the Consultation. You may also use the funding to pay for the travel costs of up to two additional representatives from your tribe to attend as well.

Regrettably, the Department does not have funding to help defray the cost of attending the Consultation for tribal governments who do not currently receive OVW grant funding. Non-OVW grantees are welcome to attend the Consultation at their own expense. The Department will accept written recommendations from tribal governments who are unable to attend the Consultation. Written comments may be submitted by first-class mail, e-mail, or facsimile to:

Office on Violence Against Women
United States Department of Justice
ATTN: Tribal Unit
800 K Street, NW, Ste. 920
Washington, DC 20530
Fax: (202) 305-2589
E-mail: OVW.VAIW@usdoj.gov

The Department recognizes that your tribe may decide to authorize an individual who is not a tribal leader to offer testimony on its behalf at the Consultation. If your tribe elects to designate someone as its official representative, the Department requests that the individual who will be presenting testimony on behalf of your tribe be prepared to submit either a resolution from your tribal council or a letter from you on official letterhead which confirms their status as the official representative of your tribe.

Please note that the Listening Session and the Consultation are two separate events. You will need to submit separate registrations if you plan to attend both the Listening Session and the Tribal Consultation. The deadline to reserve a room at the Crowne Plaza for the Tribal Consultation is **October 21, 2009**. Please see the enclosed registration form for more details. Information about how to register to attend the Listening Session can be found on the Listening Session's Web site.

I look forward to seeing you in Minnesota later this month. If you have any questions or concerns about the Consultation, please contact OVW's Tribal Unit at (202) 307-6026.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Perrelli
Associate Attorney General

Attachment