



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

January 5th, 2017

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Dear High Commissioner:

Thank you for your letter dated October 26, 2016 requesting input for its report on “the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls.” Attached please find the response from the Government of the United States. Additionally, we request that the response be posted to the OHCHR website.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Harper
Ambassador
U.S. Permanent Representative to
the UN Human Rights Council

OHCHR REGISTRY

CC: Registry@ohchr.org

- 6 JAN. 2017

Recipients : ...*L. D. Wang*.....

Enclosure

SUBJECT: US Response to a questionnaire on the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls.

The U.S. government has spoken out and driven a conversation about treating women and girls fairly in the United States and around the world. That conversation has spurred changes in cities and states, businesses big and small, and schools from early education to higher education. The White House Council on Women and Girls (CWG), which President Obama created in March 2009, has played an active role in working on these issues. The CWG is composed of representatives from each federal agency, as well as each White House office, and coordinates efforts across federal agencies and departments to ensure that the needs of women and girls are taken into account in all programs, policies, and legislation. For more information on the U.S. government's efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/women>.

Trafficking in Persons

The United States has a federal statute designed to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and punish offenders. Although trafficking victims can be found in countless different labor sectors, and men as well as women and children can be victimized, women and children are particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines trafficking in persons (TIP) in part as "sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age." 22 U.S.C. § 7102(9)(A). Note that the "force, fraud, or coercion" requirements are not applicable to any individual under the age of 18 who is induced to engage in commercial sex. While federal law enforcement agencies have a primary role in investigating sex and labor trafficking offenses, removing victims from situations of trafficking, identifying and protecting victims, and apprehending offenders, many states also have laws criminalizing trafficking. Although physical violence and sexual abuse are not infrequently found to take place in the context of human trafficking, the law recognizes more subtle non-violent forms of coercion, such as document confiscation, psychological and financial coercion, and threats against family members, as powerful tools used by traffickers to subject and maintain a victim in a situation of forced labor or prostitution.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and its component sub-agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), encounters violence against women in the context of its work to combat human trafficking. ICE's efforts to combat both labor trafficking and sex trafficking are gender-neutral and directed at vulnerable populations in general. Human traffickers often use physical force, as well as more subtle means of force, fraud, and coercion, to control their victims. TIP affects many economic sectors nationally and internationally, but female victims in the United States are most often found as victims of traffickers who subject them to commercial sex and domestic servitude. The ICE TIP Strategy (ICE TIPS) is a comprehensive outreach, education, and training campaign designed to combat TIP, both domestically and internationally. Aggressive ICE TIPS efforts enhance ICE's investigative capacity to target human traffickers worldwide and help to raise awareness necessary to prevent these crimes.

In the TVPA, Congress created the "T" nonimmigrant status (or "T visa") for victims of trafficking in persons. The T visa program strengthens the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute human trafficking and also offer immigration protection to victims. Regardless of the means used to induce or maintain labor, victims may be entitled to immigration benefits and a wide range of federally-funded services including housing, medical care, counseling, and case management services. Such services are intended to help restore victims' lives and make them less vulnerable to re-victimization.

Following President Obama's March 2012 call to strengthen federal efforts to combat human trafficking, the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) has convened leaders from government, the private sector, advocates, survivors, communities of faith, civil society, law enforcement, and academia to implement a coordinated agenda that helps prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders. In 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided more than \$20 million in grant funding to community-based organizations to assist victims of trafficking. Grantees served more than 2,378 victims of trafficking and family members through a network of organizations in 241 sites in 39 states. This represents a 40 percent increase in clients served from the previous year.

In September 2016, the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs awarded grants totaling more than \$49 million to state, local and tribal jurisdictions, law enforcement agencies, and victim service providers to combat human trafficking across the United States. The awards included funding to

provide comprehensive and specialized services for human trafficking victims, support task forces that investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, assist child victims of sex trafficking, and support research designed to improve understanding of the nature of human trafficking crimes and develop best practices to prevent and respond to such crimes. For more information on the grants, please visit: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-awards-more-49-million-combat-human-trafficking>.

The Department of the Interior also partnered with tribal law enforcement to form the first-ever Tribal Human Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force is a partnership with tribal law enforcement and courts, state Attorney General's Offices, United States Attorney's Offices, victim service providers, and Stop Violence Against Native Women, an NGO.

The State Department's Office of Protocol has augmented its work to help protect domestic workers of foreign mission personnel in the United States by implementing a system to track allegations of domestic worker abuse and bring them to the attention of the leadership of foreign missions. Working closely with the Department's Diplomatic Security Services, it encourages NGOs and attorneys to report cases. Over the years, it has established additional requirements pertaining to the treatment of domestic workers to prevent abuse and increase accountability of mission members, including by prohibiting payment in cash and any deductions from wages for housing and food. In 2015, the Office of Protocol launched the In-Person Registration Program, which enhances protections for domestic workers. Registrations are currently taking place in the Washington, D.C. area and will soon be expanded throughout the United States.

For additional information on U.S. government anti-trafficking efforts, please see this link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/24/fact-sheet-building-lasting-effort-end-modern-slavery>.

Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was originally enacted in 1994 and has been reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013. In 2013, President Obama signed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which provides resources for states and local communities to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, and to support victim services. Also included were enhanced protections for Native American, immigrant, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors. Additionally,

in 2009, Vice President Biden appointed the first ever White House Advisor on Violence Against Women to direct the efforts of the White House to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

The U.S. government is committed to ensuring full implementation of VAWA and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. In 1994, Congress passed VAWA in recognition of the severity of crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This law emerged from the efforts of a broad, grassroots coalition of advocates and survivors who informed the work of Congress. In the two decades prior to VAWA, a movement had grown within the United States to respond appropriately to violent crimes against women. Rape crisis centers and women's shelters were established in localities, and state and local laws had changed. However, the progress had been uneven around the country. VAWA was enacted out of the need for a national solution. This law enhances the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women and provides funding to support the enhanced community-coordinated response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking so that perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes and victims and their children receive the comprehensive, holistic services that they need.

Created in 1995, the DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Currently, OVW administers four formula-based and 20 discretionary grant programs established under VAWA and subsequent legislation and reports biennially on the effectiveness of activities funded through these federal grant programs. See <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/reports-congress>.

Formula programs—including STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Formula Grant Program, Sexual Assault Services Program, State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program, and Grants to Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program—ensure that states and state and tribal coalitions have funding to support specific activities to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Discretionary grant programs support community-coordinated responses that provide trauma-informed services for victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Funding is provided to local and state and tribal governments, courts, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and state and tribal coalitions through a competitive grant-making

process. These entities work toward developing more effective responses to violence against women through activities that include direct services, crisis intervention, transitional housing, legal assistance to victims, court improvement, specialized units, and training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. Grantees also work with specific populations such as elder victims, persons with disabilities, American Indian and Alaska Native populations, college students, teens, and specific cultural and linguistic populations. Additionally, as funding allows, OVW supports special initiatives in response to areas of special need. These initiatives dedicate resources to develop enhancements in areas requiring particular attention or in communities facing particularly acute challenges. They enable OVW to explore innovations in the violence against women field and share knowledge that can be replicated nationwide.

Since its inception, OVW has awarded over \$6 billion in grants and cooperative agreements, and has launched a multifaceted approach to implementing VAWA. By forging state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others, OVW grant programs help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. See <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/ovwgrantprograms.htm>.

Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties reviews and assesses information concerning abuses of civil rights and civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by DHS officials and employees. The Office also ensures that all federally-assisted and federally-conducted programs or activities of DHS comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and related Executive Orders. The Office investigates complaints in areas such as: abuse of authority or color of the law; discrimination; profiling; violations of the confidentiality provisions of VAWA; conditions of detention; treatment; due process; and watch lists.

Complaints alleging a violation of the VAWA confidentiality provisions by a DHS employee may be submitted in writing via letter, fax, or e-mail to the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Complaints are accepted in languages other than English. Complaints filed with the Office are forwarded to the DHS Office of the Inspector General, and may be forwarded to other Department components or to



other government agencies, such as the Department of Justice, as appropriate. Regardless of how a complaint is routed, it will be carefully reviewed and resolved in accordance with applicable laws and policies. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/civilliberties>.

In the Workplace

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, and national origin. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 prohibits wage discrimination between men and women in the same establishment who perform substantially equal work. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, enacted in 2009, empowers women to recover wages lost due to discrimination by making it easier to bring pay discrimination claims. The Obama administration also created the National Equal Pay Task Force to crack down on violations of equal pay laws. In September 2015, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a final rule implementing Executive Order 13665, prohibiting federal contractors and subcontractors from discharging or otherwise discriminating against job applicants or employees for inquiring about, discussing, or disclosing their pay or that of others, subject to certain limitations. Further, DOL and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission now require businesses with 100 or more employees to submit summary pay data intersectionally by sex and race or ethnicity, helping focus public enforcement of nondiscrimination laws.

DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics releases data on employment, unemployment, persons not in the labor force, hours of work, and earnings, including intersectional information by sex and race or ethnicity. See Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*, available at: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm#women>.

In 2012, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish government-wide guidance to address the effects of domestic violence on the federal workforce under the premise that, as the nation's largest employer, the federal government should act as a model in responding to the effects of domestic violence on its workforce. OPM has continued to work with agencies across the government to enhance departmental policies that support employees impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/04/18/presidential-memorandum-establishing-policies-addressing-domestic-violence>.



In November 2013, DOJ was the first major federal agency to submit a final workplace policy in response to the Presidential Memorandum with the goal that the new policy would be used by other federal agencies, as well as private sector workplaces, as a model for developing a comprehensive workplace response that values the safety needs of survivors. The policy and its provisions are grounded in survivor safety and perpetrator accountability, and seek to further a healthy, productive workplace. The policy helps survivors keep their jobs through clearly described flexible leave options, enabling them to attend a protection order hearing or visit a mental health professional. The policy also includes provisions that hold offenders accountable with disciplinary actions and security procedures, and addresses complex situations, such as a perpetrator and victim who work in the same building—or even the same office. Importantly, the policy calls for training and education so all employees can play a part in promoting workplace safety. See <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2013/12/19/federal-workplace-responses-to-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-stalking.pdf> and <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/blog/supporting-workplaces-providing-effective-response-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and>.

To help employers implement similar policies, OVW has funded the Workplaces Respond to Domestic and Sexual Violence: A National Resource Center (see <http://www.workplacesrespond.org>) and Futures without Violence (see <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org>) in support of efforts to educate, train, and support organizations and businesses looking for strategies to address domestic violence in the workplace.

In Schools

Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are serious problems on college and university campuses. Research has shown that approximately one in five women experience sexual assault in college. In 2014, President Obama created the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault to turn this tide. The Task Force coordinates efforts across many different federal agencies to provide increased resources, guidance and tools in order to assist colleges and universities in improving prevention and response efforts to protect students from sexual violence.

The Task Force produced Not Alone, a report on federal activities and resources to address campus sexual assault. After 27 listening sessions with stakeholders across the country, the Task Force provided recommendations for how schools could prevent and respond to sexual assault. Through this process, the Task Force



charged the National Center for Campus Public Safety (NCCPS) with developing a curriculum on trauma-informed sexual assault investigations and adjudications. The NCCPS curriculum and other Task Force deliverables offer trauma-informed resources and best practices for schools to implement effective sexual assault misconduct policies and promote safe and healthy environments in which students can grow and learn. See <https://www.notalone.gov/assets/report.pdf>.

Additionally, OVW's Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program awards grants to institutions of higher education to help create effective, comprehensive, and sustainable strategies to prevent and respond to these crimes. The program provides funding to strengthen culturally relevant and survivor-centered approaches, provide on-campus victim services and advocacy, foster community involvement, and enhance security and investigation. These activities improve prevention of crimes and have been found to increase intervention by bystanders to stop or prevent sexual violence. Additional information about protecting students from sexual assault, including information about statistics, campus climate surveys, and other resources, can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/protecting-students-sexual-assault>.

Housing Protections and Policies

The Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status, has long provided wide-ranging protections for women. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and DOJ share enforcement responsibilities under the Act and routinely bring cases on behalf of women who have been harassed because of sex or another protected characteristic in their homes or in seeking housing.

In 2016, HUD published a rule entitled "Quid Pro Quo and Hostile Environment Harassment and Liability for Discriminatory Housing Practices under the Fair Housing Act," which formalized standards for investigating and adjudicating Fair Housing Act cases involving harassment. Among other things, the rule was designed to assist housing providers to ensure compliance with the Fair Housing Act by defining quid pro quo and hostile environment harassment and by stating the principles of tort liability clearly. The rule was also designed to aid victims in understanding and establishing when they had been subjected to illegal harassment.

The rule can be found at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/14/2016-21868/quid-pro-quo-and-hostile-environment-harassment-and-liability-for-discriminatory-housing-practices>.

In addition, in 2016, HUD finalized another new rule (http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-159) which enhances housing protections for survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Several key elements of the new rule include:

- Codifying core protections across HUD's covered programs to help ensure that survivors are not denied assistance as an applicant, or evicted or have assistance terminated as a tenant, because the applicant or tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Adopting a model emergency transfer plan for housing providers and explaining how housing providers must address their tenants' requests for emergency transfers.
- Survivors often face denial, termination, or eviction from housing for a reason that seems unrelated to being a survivor (such as poor rental history or poor credit), but is actually a direct result of being a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. To protect survivors in situations like these, the final rule prohibits any denial, termination, or eviction that is "a direct result of the fact that the applicant or tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, if the applicant or tenant otherwise qualifies for admission, assistance, participation, or occupancy." Establishing that, under most circumstances, a survivor need only to self-certify in order to exercise his or her rights under VAWA.

More information can be found here:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-159.

Furthermore, HUD recently issued Fair Housing Act guidance (http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-134) to assist local governments in assessing their local nuisance and crime-free ordinances to ensure they do not violate survivors' rights under the



Fair Housing Act. These nuisance and crime-free ordinances can result in housing discrimination by requiring or encouraging evictions for use of emergency services, including 911 calls. Too often, these ordinances cause survivors of domestic violence to have to choose between keeping their homes or protecting their own lives. To assist in educating the public about this guidance, HUD has joined with OVW in making presentations about it to numerous groups, including persons who advocate for survivors of domestic violence and law enforcement personnel.

In the Criminal Justice System

In recent years, DOJ conducted several “pattern or practice” investigations of police departments—including in New Orleans, Puerto Rico, Missoula, Montana, and most recently in Baltimore—and identified several instances of gender bias in law enforcement response to violence against women. Following several of these investigations, law enforcement leaders, women’s advocates, and civil rights advocates sought additional guidance from DOJ on how police departments should address potential gender bias in policing.

In December 2015, the Attorney General announced new guidance on “Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence,” which can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/identifying-and-preventing-gender-bias>. This guidance, which was developed in partnership with police leaders, line officers, detectives, and advocates, states that gender bias is a form of discrimination that may result in law enforcement agencies providing less protection to certain victims on the basis of gender, failing to respond to crimes that disproportionately harm a particular gender, or offering less robust services due to a reliance on gender stereotypes—including those that are based on assumptions or prejudice toward an individual’s gender identity or sexual orientation.

To support communities put the guidance into practice, DOJ recently announced the investment of over \$9 million into several new pilot and demonstration programs designed to integrate the principles outlined in the guidance into actual law enforcement agency policies, training, supervision protocols, and systems of accountability. These announcements include:

- A \$5 million award by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to the International Association of the Chiefs of Police (IACP) to lead a demonstration on identifying and preventing gender bias in law enforcement



and improving services to sexual assault and domestic violence victims. Six police departments will work with IACP to develop and implement strategies to improve the police response in sexual and domestic violence cases;

- Awards totaling \$2.85 million by the OVW to five grantees under OVW's Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Grant Program, to integrate the principles outlined in the DOJ guidance into law enforcement policies, training, supervision protocols, and systems of accountability;
- Three awards, totaling \$1.65 million, by OVW for national technical assistance to be provided by IACP, the Police Executive Research Forum, and End Violence Against Women International, to develop resources, provide training, and help build the capacity of police departments and OVW grantees to support implementation of the DOJ guidance; and
- A \$400,000 research award by OVW to evaluate the effectiveness of training based on the guidance for sworn officers in an urban police department.

In March 2016, OVC announced a \$1 million award to the Vera Institute of Justice and its partners to ensure equal access to services for deaf, hard of hearing, and limited English proficient (LEP) individuals through an innovative and dual approach for these historically underserved populations. The program will provide training and technical assistance (TTA) for crime victim service providers and allied professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and court administrators. The program will also establish a new online language access resource center, lead in-person and online trainings at conferences and meetings of victim service providers and other victim advocates, and conduct specialized one-on-one consultation for service providers to help them develop procedures and sensible practices to ensure equal access for LEP, deaf, and hard of hearing victims. Ultimately, the TTA will address language and cultural barriers that intersect with gender bias in policing, as well as those intersectional issues throughout the criminal justice system entry points.

For more information on steps taken to address bias in criminal justice, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/10/28/identifying-and-preventing-gender-bias-law-enforcement-response-sexual-assault-and>.

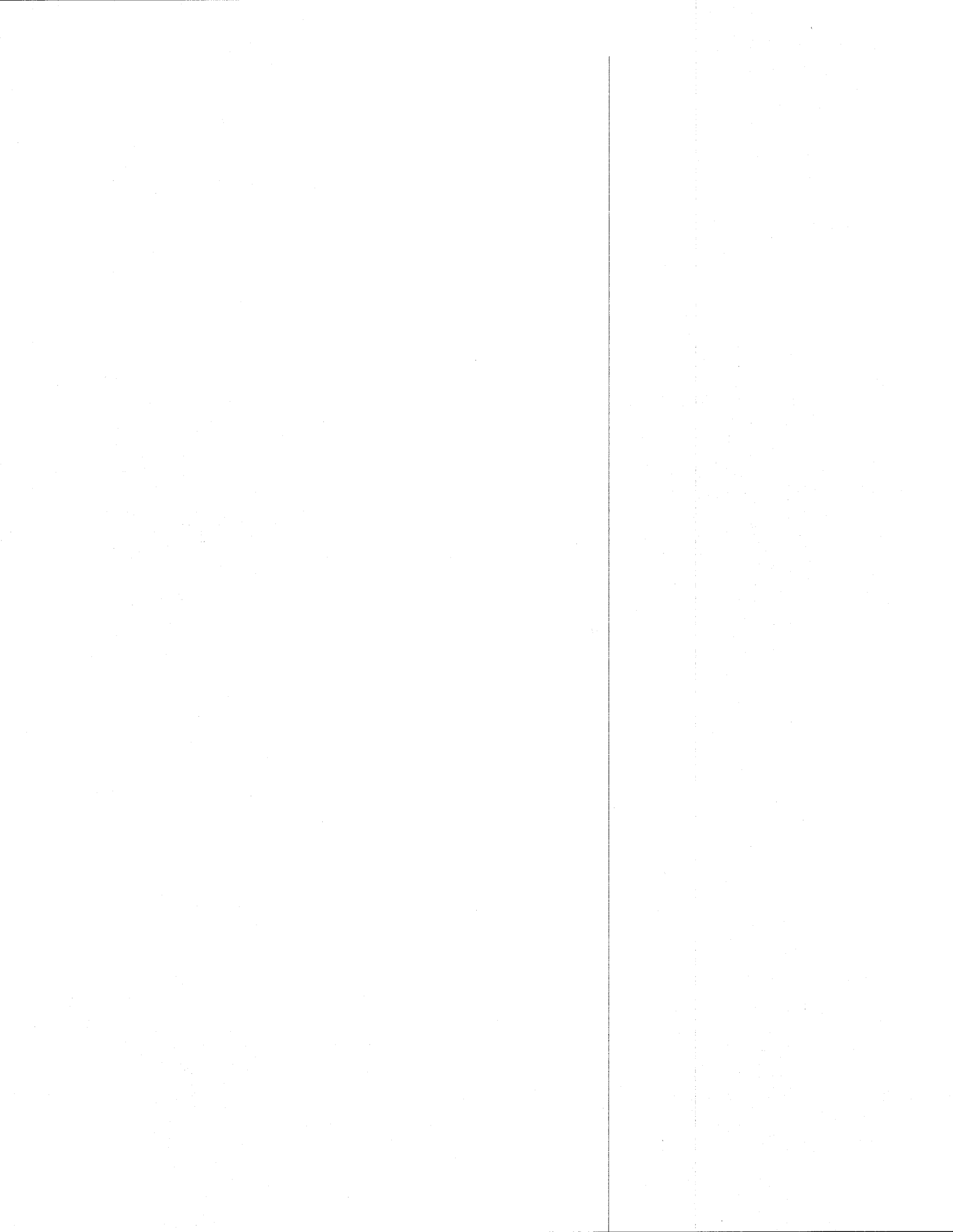


In 2013, the Obama administration commissioned The Confinement SAFE Protocol. The Confinement SAFE Protocol is designed as a guide to assist administrators of prisons, jails, and community confinement facilities in drafting or revising protocols for an immediate response to incidences and reports of sexual assault. It also identifies issues and recommendations for administrators of lockups and juvenile corrections. This guide extends the efforts of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Commission and DOJ to address an immediate response to sexual assault in correctional environments by offering guidance on how to comply with the PREA Standards, follow a uniform evidence protocol and coordinate response activities, and help correctional facilities strive toward the standards in the SAFE Protocol. See <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2013/08/12/confinement-safe-protocol.pdf>.

Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous and Migrant Women/Women in Vulnerable Populations

Following his June 2016 visit to Ottawa for the North American Leaders' Summit (NALS), President Obama met with the President of Mexico and the Prime Minister of Canada to discuss a variety of topics that affect our shared borders. Among the commitments announced at the NALS was the formation of a new North American Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls (the Working Group), a tri-lateral initiative to address the high levels of domestic and sexual violence against indigenous women and girls across our continent. On October 14, 2016, the White House hosted the inaugural meeting of the Working Group, led by the U.S., Canadian, and Mexican Attorneys General, with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Mexican Director for the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, and the Canadian Minister for Indigenous and Northern Affairs. The Administration announced several new commitments, resources, and initiatives to address violence against indigenous women and girls, including:

- Launch of Strong Hearts Helpline, the First Crisis Line for Native Survivors: Through support from HHS, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, in partnership with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, will launch the first-ever crisis-line for Alaska Native and American Indian women and girls, the Strong Hearts Helpline, on January 4, 2017. The new helpline will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services by and for Native women and will assist Alaska Native and American Indian



survivors of domestic and sexual violence with safety planning, emotional support, and referrals to local resources.

- **New Guidelines for Responding to Intimate Partner Violence from Indian Health Services:** On October 14, 2016, the Indian Health Service (IHS) released the first-ever set of uniform clinical care guidelines on identifying and responding to intimate partner violence (IPV) for all patients presenting to IHS health care facilities. These guidelines will instruct and equip staff to identify victims of IPV and intervene on their behalf within a system of medical care and referral that is patient-centered, culturally sensitive, and trauma-informed.
- **New Investments in Tribal Justice:** In September 2016, at the White House Tribal Nations Conference, Attorney General Lynch announced more than \$107 million in new funding through DOJ grants to American Indian and Alaska Native communities to improve public safety to help victims, and strengthen tribal institutions. This amount includes 236 grants under DOJ's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, totaling more than \$102 million, to 131 American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, tribal consortia, and tribal designees. In addition, OVW announced seven awards worth more than \$2 million to help tribes develop plans for implementing changes in their criminal justice systems necessary to exercise their jurisdiction over domestic violence crimes as outlined in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

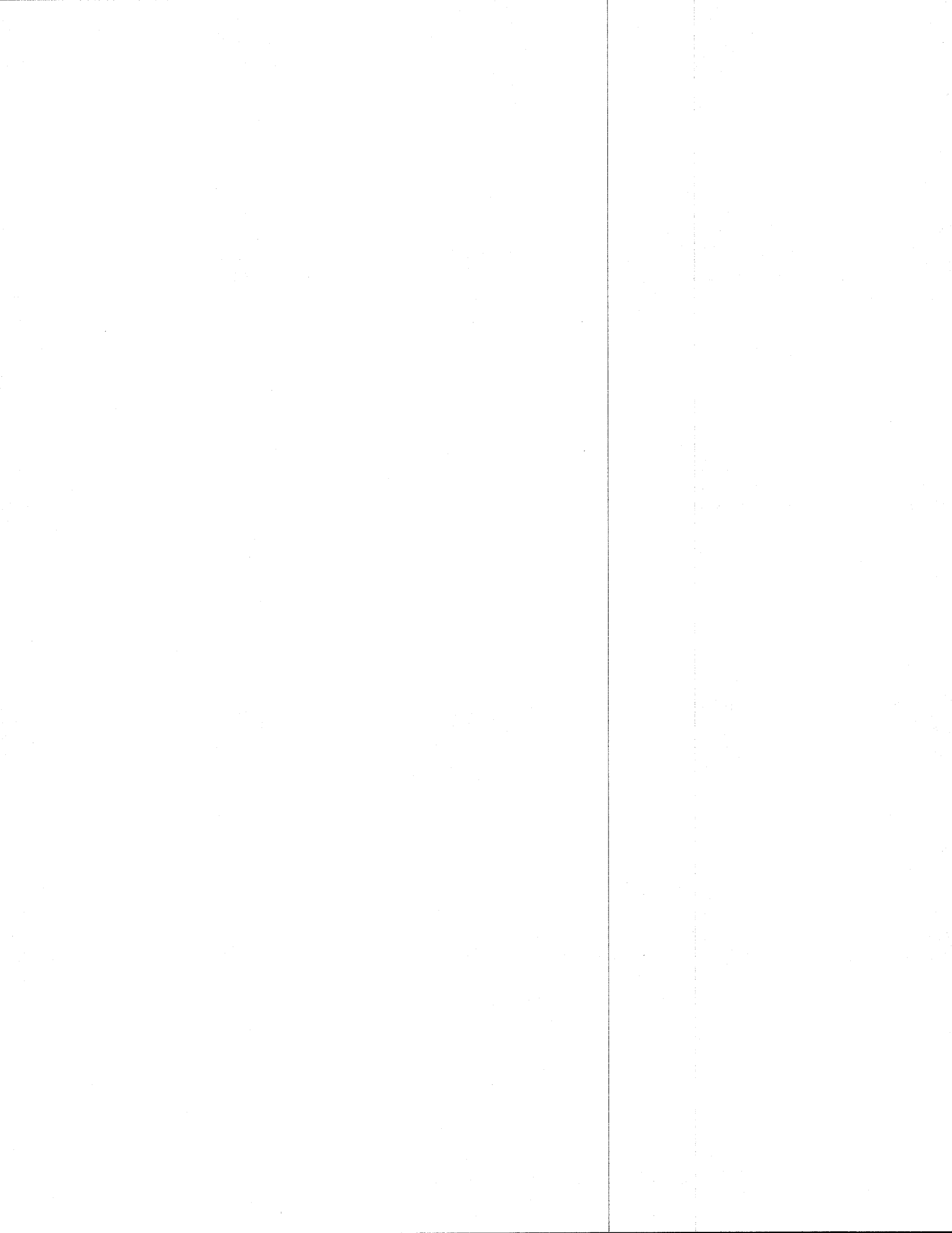
More information on other commitments to end violence and discrimination against women and girls from these communities can be found here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/14/fact-sheet-north-american-working-group-violence-against-indigenous>.

Research

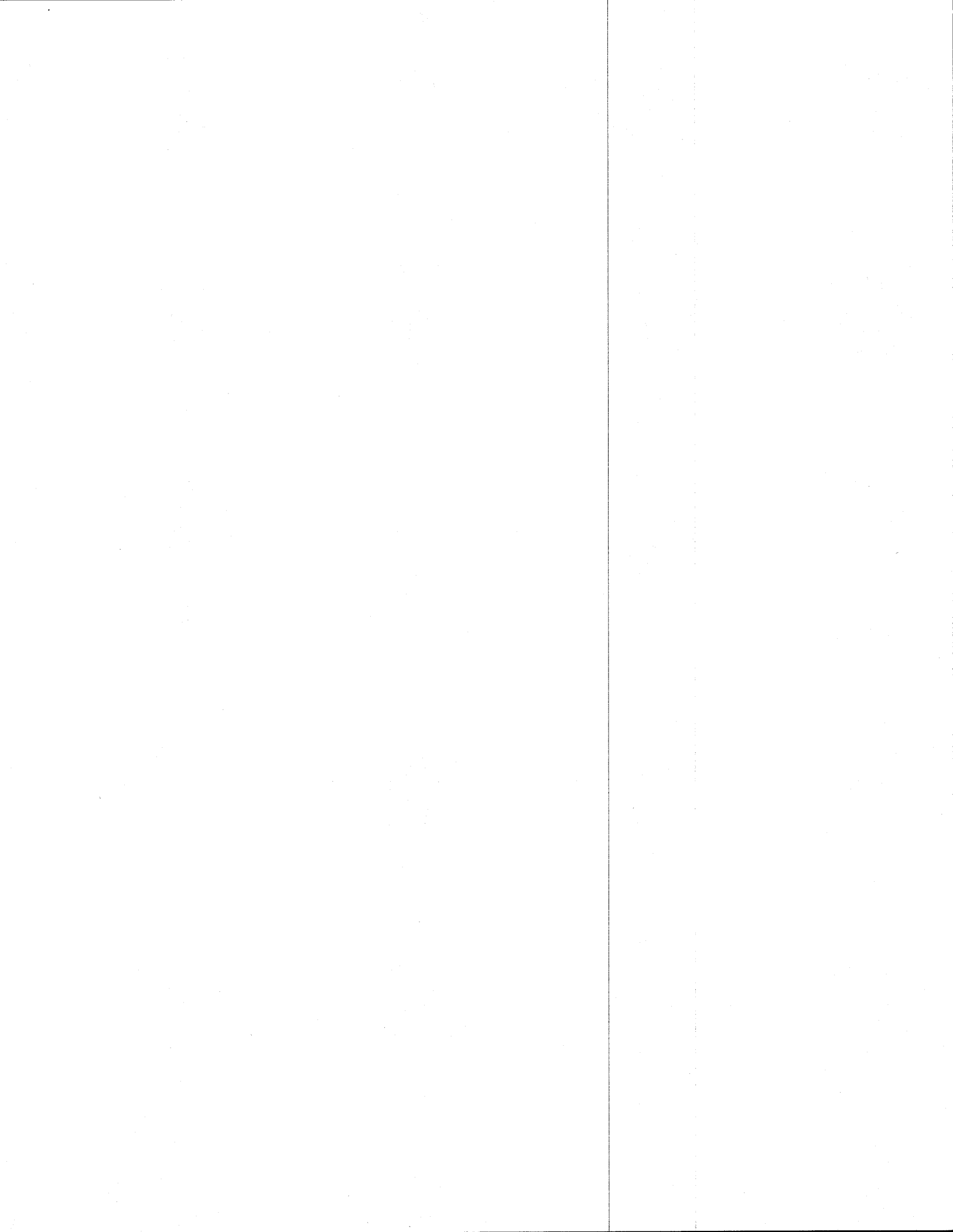
The U.S. government is supporting research in several areas relevant to discrimination and violence against women and girls, including:

- **Study Results on the Growing Oil Industry's Impact in North Dakota and Montana on Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking:** The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) funded a mixed-method exploratory study to examine the impact of the Bakken oil development on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The



research team conducted 13 focus groups with elected officials, attorneys, law enforcement, victim service providers, health and human service workers, community members, and tribal members in oil-impacted communities. In addition, more than 119 qualitative interviews were conducted with victims, community members, first-responders, clergy, law enforcement, hospital personnel, social service workers, school principals, victim service providers, local and state attorneys, elected officials, and oil industry leaders. Study results showed significant increases of sexually-based crime in oil-impacted communities. Study findings also showed a rise in crime during the peak of the oil boom period (2008-2012) that seriously strained regional-community infrastructures (e.g., lack of needed personnel, affordable housing, and social and behavioral services).

- **New Research to Expand the Evidence Base on Prevalence of Violence Against Native Women and Girls:** NIJ has commissioned research to address gaps in the evidence base on the prevalence of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. The National Baseline Study (NBS) will capture more detailed information that has direct implications for women living in tribal communities (i.e., health, wellness, support services, perceptions of public safety, and opinions on law enforcement response). The NBS was also designed to help address gaps not only in health and legal services and outcomes, but also in criminal jurisdiction, particularly for victims living on tribal lands. Results are expected in 2018.
- **CDC's Survey on Health Risks Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth:** This summer, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the first-ever nationwide survey on the health risks faced by lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, which includes important statistics on how this population is disproportionately affected by crime. Of the 1.3 million U.S. high school students who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, the survey found that nearly 18 percent have been forced to have sex, compared to about 5 percent of their heterosexual peers. Bisexual and gay students were also twice as likely to have experienced physical violence, sexual dating violence, and bullying. The CDC report also documented the levels of sexual violence, other than rape, that the following populations have experienced in their lifetimes: one in eight lesbian women (13.1 percent), nearly half of bisexual women (46.1 percent), nearly half of bisexual men (47.4 percent), and four in ten gay men (40.2 percent).



- The Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (CCSVS) Project: Through surveys of 25,000 students across nine demographically diverse schools, the Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (CCSVS) confirmed previous statistics about campus sexual assault: on average, more than one in five female students (21 percent) experience sexual assault in college, with a significant number of those assaults occurring in the beginning of the academic year, and 34 percent of college women reported experiencing sexual assault in their lifetimes.

