



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RE: Native women speak about how their near invisibility in mainstream media is fueling an epidemic of violence in their communities.

WHAT: Press conference and call to action to be hosted during Santa Fe Indian Art Market to address connection between epidemic of violence against Native women and lack of representation in film and television.

WHERE: Santa Fe Indian Center, 1420 Cerrillos Road

WHEN: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 12pm

WHO: 23rd RNCI 'On the Road' Red Nation International Film Festival (RNIFF) is the first American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival in Los Angeles, and was founded in Santa Fe NM in 1995. RNCI Red Nation Awards™ honors accomplishments of Independent Motion Pictures, Documentaries, Shorts, Television, Comedy and Music which are produced, directed, written, and or starring American Indians. Honorees include individuals who have made advancements in film, radio, television, comedy, media and social justice.

Native Women in Film and Television was founded in 1996 to create a resource for Native women's rights. Today the organization is an international leader in promoting equal opportunities for American Indian & Indigenous women in film and television, more accurate and empowering portrayals in global media, and Indigenous women writing their own narratives.

Santa Fe, New Mexico— During its 23rd annual international film festival at the Santa Fe Art Market, The Red Nation International Film Festival and Native Women in FILM will be hosting a press conference and panel discussion about the connections between the lack of representation of Native women in film and television and the epidemic of violence against Native women in the United States and how they are connected. During the height of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movement, Native Women in FILM launched the #WhyWeWearRed call to action and media coalition to address the specific and epidemic of violence against Native women. Panelists include New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Jenelle Roybal (Pojoaque Pueblo) and Democratic Congressional Nominee Debra Haaland, who is slated to be the first Native woman to ever serve in Congress. New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas has designated Sharon Pino, Chief Deputy Attorney General, as his representative to attend Tuesday's press conference at Noon. Balderas' office recently conducted human trafficking awareness training sessions. Pino will be a valuable addition to the #WhyWeWearRed panel.

Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or abused than any other racial or ethnic group in the US. Eight in ten Native women will be raped, stalked or abused in their lifetime and one in three Native women will be raped, stalked or abused every year. While there is no national database on missing and murdered indigenous women, on some reservations Native women are murdered at a rate 10 times more than the national average.

Meanwhile, the representation of Native women in mainstream film and television is plagued by invisibility, stereotypes and whitewashing. In 2018, there has never been a mainstream television series starring a Native woman. While the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has reported a body that is 30 percent people of color, only 0.0026 percent of its members are Native women. In 2018, Native female characters are still being played by White actresses.

The panel discussion and press conference kick off a week of film screenings during the annual Indian Art Market. For a full schedule of events visit: www.rednationff.com.