



CREATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

There is a worldwide epidemic of child sex abuse, with at least **1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys sexually assaulted before they turn 18**. Those numbers are even higher for members of indigenous communities.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ARE AT RISK

National Institute of Justice reported that American Indian/Alaska Native 56.1% of women and 27.5% of men have experienced sexual violence.



1 IN 2 INDIGENOUS WOMEN & 1 IN 5 INDIGENOUS MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ABUSE

For those brave enough to come forward, most victims miss the deadline for obtaining justice because the trauma affects victims in a way that causes them to delay disclosure of their abuse until many years later. Studies show the **average age child sex abuse victims disclose they were abused is 52**.

Member of indigenous communities are

2.5x

more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races

52

The average age child sex abuse victims report abuse

Promoting Child Welfare through the Indian Child Welfare Act

CHILD USA supports ongoing implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which gives first consideration to tribal members when placing a youth in out of home care. The law represents a just response to the historical trauma experienced by Indigenous communities, provides a structured decision-making framework for analyzing the best interests of Native children, and keeps kids connected to cultural and community ties. Research demonstrates that maintaining family and cultural connections can help Native children be more resilient in healing from trauma.

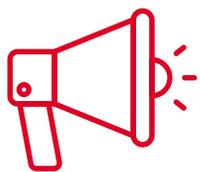
67% **40%**

Percentages of Native Americans filed as a missing person's case

Percentage of trafficking victims that are Native American in SD

“The truth needs to be heard from the perspective of those who were harmed”

the leader of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition



NBC News reported records confirmed the **deaths of 227 children** while at Mount Pleasant Indian Boarding School, MI.

Creating Access to Justice through State and Federal Statute of Limitations Reform

Victims should have all the time they need to access justice. The trend is toward state expansion and elimination of child sex abuse statutes of limitations, but the time has come for change at the federal level.

CHILD USA and CHILD USAAdvocacy, its sister lobbying organization, are working with states to reform their statutes of limitations, as well as working with federal legislatures to establish a national standard for statutes of limitations in cases of child sexual abuse. Representative Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives this year that would amend CAPTA to incentivize states to eliminate civil and criminal statutes of limitations and revive time-barred civil claims for child sex abuse cases.

Allocation of federal funds will be tied directly to the number of reforms being sought and will be in addition to any funds States are eligible to receive under the current CAPTA provisions. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand (D-NY) is leading the charge on a similar bill to incentivize states to eliminate the criminal statute of limitations for child sex abuse. Meanwhile CHILD USA and CHILD USAAdvocacy continue to encourage reform in the States that have not yet eliminated criminal and civil statutes of limitations.



CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank working to end child abuse and neglect in the United States. CHILD USA engages in high-level legal, social science, and medical research and analysis to derive the best public policies to end child abuse and neglect in America. CHILD USA produces evidence-based solutions and information needed by policymakers, organizations, media, and society as a whole to increase child protection and the common good.