



**YOUNG ONCE
INDIAN FOREVER:
PROTECTING THE CHILDREN
OF INDIAN COUNTRY**

Discussion Guide

**A PRODUCTION OF:
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**The Office for Victims of Crime
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.
November 1996**

YOUNG ONCE INDIAN FOREVER is an educational tool for use in increasing awareness of child abuse in Indian Country among tribal leaders. The video can be shown in groups, families, or can be viewed privately by individuals. The content of the video may be disturbing to some viewers as it may bring up past memories of abuse. Prior to viewing the video, it will be helpful to inform people of the reactions which they may experience and to identify the local resources available to provide counseling or other assistance. While some individuals may wish to view the video in private, it is important for everyone to know that emotional responses to parts of the video are normal for people who have experienced or witnessed abuse.

For agencies utilizing this video as a training tool, it will be useful to develop educational handouts to accompany it. These handouts may include the signs and symptoms of child abuse as well as local resources available to current and past victims of child abuse. Other ideas for discussion topics or written handouts include the following:

1. What resources are available in your community for assisting child abuse victims and their families? This discussion can help community leaders identify unmet needs and to begin planning for meeting these needs.

2. What groups or agencies are involved in handling child abuse cases in your community? Are these cases handled in a sensitive and appropriate manner? In many communities the agencies involved in handling child abuse cases include: social services (either tribal, state, county, or BIA), law enforcement (BIA, tribal, state, FBI, and/or county), judicial — including prosecutors, judges, and other court staff (tribal, federal, and/or state), behavioral or mental health (tribal and/or Indian Health Service), hospitals (Indian Health Service or tribal), schools (tribal, BIA, and/or public), and the victim's family and friends. The video can provide an opportunity for viewers to identify how child abuse cases are handled in their community and to explore ways to improve the system's response to child abuse.

Many tribal communities have multidisciplinary teams, often called CPT's (child protection teams), SCAN teams (suspected child abuse and neglect), or MDT's (multidisciplinary teams). These teams can be extremely effective in coordinating services for child abuse victims. The teams will be especially effective if they have the active support of tribal leaders.

3. What is the tribal leadership's role in responding to child abuse in their community? Tribal leaders play a vital role in education, prevention, and intervention services for their communities. A discussion can include identification of the role tribal leaders currently play in this issue as well as identifying additional ways for tribal leaders to become involved. Some ideas include passing a children's bill of rights, resolu-

tions and activities in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) and Domestic Violence Awareness month (October), and creating of or updating existing family protection codes (including mandatory arrest procedures).

4. How does the community as a whole respond to child abuse? What are individual community members doing to deal with the child abuse problem?

5. Are there physicians in the community who have been specially trained to perform child sexual abuse exams? It is vital that they receive such training. There are alternatives to performing a physical exam on a screaming, traumatized child and, in the process, re-traumatizing the child. However, physicians who have not received specialized training in performing child sexual abuse exams may be unaware of the available alternatives.

6. Jurisdictional issues can cause confusion among service providers and community members. Discussions aimed at clarifying jurisdictional confusion may be very helpful. Does the audience know which agencies have jurisdiction in child abuse cases in the areas of law enforcement, child protection, and judicial services, including how these jurisdictional concerns are influenced by factors, such as, whether the perpetrator is an Indian or non-Indian, where the abuse occurred, the existing tribal codes, etc. It is crucial that everyone clearly understand these issues.

7. The video highlights the importance of victim/child advocates in assisting child victims and their families through "the system." Does your community offer these victim assistance services to child abuse victims? If not, what actions can the community take to make victim advocacy services available? If such services are available, does the community know about them or is additional community education necessary?

8. What types of traditional beliefs and healing practices can be utilized to make available resources culturally relevant? If you have a local prevention, education, and/or treatment program, does this program integrate traditional values and beliefs? Many professionals working in Indian Country are non-Indian and may be unfamiliar with the community's cultural beliefs and traditional healing practices. It is vital that community members and non-community members work together to develop programs that reflect the beliefs, values, and traditions of the community they serve.

9. Juvenile perpetrators. Virtually every community, Indian and non-Indian, has noted a dramatic increase in reported juvenile child sex offenders. While many people find it difficult to believe that a six year old can molest a young child, or that a 10 year old is capable of rape, these

activities take place with disturbing regularity. It is important to discuss the fact that juvenile sex offenders exist and that they pose a serious threat to the safety of all other children. The question of treatment for juvenile offenders will undoubtedly arise during any discussion of this type. The question is a difficult one to answer. Most reservation communities do not offer treatment services for juvenile offenders. While there are a growing number of off-reservation treatment programs for juvenile offenders, many of these programs have not yet produced long-term data on their effectiveness.

The issue of juvenile offenders, including treatment options and possible criminal prosecution (in both federal and tribal courts), are important issues for every community to address.

10. Dynamics of incest. The video does not give an in-depth look at the family dynamics of incest. Community education in this area can be especially useful in assisting community members in identifying families in which incest may be occurring.

11. The relationship between substance abuse and sexual abuse. There are many implications of this relationship, including the challenges of FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) and FAE (fetal alcohol effect) victims and perpetrators. Many people believe that when alcohol is involved in sexual abuse, that treatment of the offender's alcohol problem will also solve the sexual abuse problem. This is a misperception which must be addressed so that appropriate sanctions and treatment can be offered to offenders.

The issues of FAS and FAE interact with sexual abuse in a frightening manner. Child sexual abuse victims who have FAS may be poor witnesses in criminal proceedings. They may be seen by sex offenders as potential victims for this reason. Additionally, some FAS children may lack the cognitive ability to defend themselves against abuse. FAS and FAE children may lack an understanding of cause and effect and may have difficulty understanding why sexual exploitation of another person is wrong.

Child sexual abuse is one of the most difficult issues for a community to deal with. After generations of silence, it is difficult for community members to feel comfortable talking about child sexual abuse, especially to outsiders. Denial about the existence of sexual abuse may make tribal leaders particularly sensitive to dealing with it. Thus, victims of sexual abuse and their families may feel isolated and alone. They may face strong community and family pressure to maintain the silence and do which traditionally accompanies child sexual abuse.

This video seeks to break the silence and denial of child abuse and domestic violence and to begin the healing of our children, our families, and our communities.

SUGGESTED READING

The Courage to Heal, by Helen Bass and Laura Davis, Harper and Row, NY (1988).

Outgrowing the Pain: A Book for and about Adults Abused as Children, by Eliane Gil, Launch Press (1984).

Treating the Young Male Victim of Sexual Abuse: Issues and Intervention Strategies, by Eugene Porter, Safer Society Press, Orwell, VT (1986).

The Secret Trauma: Incest in the Lives of Girls and Women, by Diana Russell, Basic Books, NY (1986).

The Spirit Weeps: Characteristics and Dynamics of Incest and Child Sexual Abuse, by Tony Martens, published by: Nechi Institute, Box 3884, Postal Station D, Edmonton, AB, T5L 4K1 CANADA (1988).

ALSO AVAILABLE

"B.J. LEARNS ABOUT FEDERAL AND TRIBAL COURT" A VIDEO FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN REQUIRED TO TESTIFY IN COURT

"B.J. Learns about Federal and Tribal Court" is a new resource designed to help prepare Native American child victims and witnesses to testify in criminal court. The ten-minute video attempts to answer questions frequently asked about the courtroom, courtroom procedures and the people who participate in court proceedings. By learning what to expect in a trial setting, children will become more confident and many of their fears about testifying will be alleviated. The video is non-threatening and is intended to be cross-cultural. It may be utilized with children from tribes across the country. General information about both federal and tribal court systems is included. The video should be shown by adult professionals who can answer children's questions about the criminal justice system.

The video was produced by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona with support from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. For more information and to obtain a free copy of the video, contact:

Cathy Sanders
Office for Victims of Crime
810 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20531
Phone: (202) 616-3578

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIDEOTAPES

Two domestic violence video tapes, "*Agents of Change*" and "*Albuquerque Journal*" are available for purchase from the Victim Service Agency Public Affairs Office. Both videos provide dramatic presentations concerning the effectiveness of mandatory arrest procedures in domestic violence situations. "*Agents of Change*" is \$150 plus \$10 shipping and handling. "*Albuquerque Journal*" is \$200 plus \$10 shipping and handling. Both videos are available from:

Victim Services Agency
Public Affairs Office
2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007
Phone: (212) 577-3800 FAX: (212) 557-3897

SELECTED CHILD ABUSE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES DIRECTORY

This directory is maintained by Prevent Child Abuse America. It includes over 100 annotated entries, including national resources, and gives information on locating facts and services in the child abuse field and related areas. This directory is available on-line at www.preventchildabuse.org. For further information, please contact:

Prevent Child Abuse America
200 South Michigan Avenue, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60690
Phone: (312) 663-3520 FAX: (312) 939-8962

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND TRAINING MANUAL

This NIJC training manual offers a comprehensive presentation of substantive and procedural information necessary to effectively handle child sexual abuse cases in Indian country. Chapters include: (1) Overview of Child Sexual Abuse; (2) Reporting Policies and Procedures; (3) Law Enforcement Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse; (4) Child Protection Services and Victim Services; (5) Interviewing Child Sexual Abuse Victims; (6) Tribal/Federal Coordination of Child Sexual Abuse Cases; (7) Child Sexual Abuse Cases in Tribal Court; (8) Witness and Evidentiary Considerations in Child Sexual Abuse Cases; (9) Roles in Child Sexual Abuse Cases; (10) Sentencing, Treatment and Resource Development; and (11) Problem Areas in Child Sexual Abuse. The manual is available from NIJC for \$69.00 (includes shipping and handling).

TRIBAL COURT RECORD

NIJC publishes a quarterly newsletter which focuses upon tribal courts, tribal government, law enforcement, social services, victim

assistance programs, and others throughout Indian country, as well as child abuse and domestic violence issues. Contact NIJC to subscribe.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TRIBAL CODE REVISION RESOURCE PACKET

This tribal code revision resource packet is designed to provide assistance for Indian tribes seeking to improve the handling of child sexual abuse cases. The resource packet includes both possible guidelines for us in revising tribal codes to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases in Indian country and extensive supplemental resource materials. The resource packet is available from The National Indian Justice Center for \$25 (includes shipping and handling).

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

NIJC has developed an extensive protocol development guide for child sexual abuse cases. An interagency child sexual abuse protocol is a written document outlining each agency's specific role and responsibility in the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse. This protocol guide includes general guidelines for protocol development and examples of various types of protocols. It is available from NIJC for \$10 (includes shipping and handling).

BITTER EARTH: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

NIJC produced and distributes a video called *Bitter Earth: Child Sexual Abuse in Indian Country*. The video is an important weapon in the fight against child sexual abuse in Indian Country. The video is intended to be shown as a community education tool or used for in-service training.

The video covers a wide range of topics including: signs and symptoms of sexual abuse, the impact of sexual abuse on families and communities, roles and responsibilities in dealing with child sexual abuse cases, treatment issues (including traditional healing approaches), and prevention strategies. *Bitter Earth* features intensely moving interviews with child sexual abuse survivors and their families. This is a unique educational tool that will increase community members' ability to deal with this difficult issue.

Bitter Earth runs 55 minutes and is accompanied by a discussion guide. This video is a must for social services, law enforcement educational, judicial, mental health, and victim assistance services as well as tribal leaders, administrators, and everyone who is concerned about Indian children. It is available from NIJC for \$49 (shipping and handling included).

NATIONAL VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER

The National Victims Resource Center (NVRC) is a national clearinghouse for victims information funded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice. The NVRC is one of several information resources maintained by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Information specialists at NVRC can provide the following resources:

More than 7,000 victim-related books and articles covering child physical and sexual abuse, victims services, domestic violence victim-witness programs, and violent crime programs are included in the NCJRS data base, including:

- National victimization status;
- Federally sponsored victim-related research studies; and
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people to contact for information and assistance.

• For information on State victims compensation programs funded by the Office for Victims of Crime, call or write: National Victims Resource Center, P.O. Box 6000-AIQ, Rockville, MD 20850. Phone: 1-800-627-6872.

• The development of this video and guide was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 94-VI-GX-K001 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

• The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: The Bureau of Justice Assistance, The Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

• Points of view or opinions expressed in this video are those of the participants and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department of Justice.

