Stop Tribal Disenrollment: Indian Country simply cannot afford any additional trauma

“Disenrollment is a hold-over from a foreign government’s final solution attempt once used to rid the land of Indians.”

Source: Indian Country Today - By: Dr. Marquez, PhD, is the Co-Founder of the Tribal Administration Certificate Programs at Claremont Graduate University and former Chairman of San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Contributed by Andrea Marquez, Soboba Tribal Member CA

In western governments, sovereignty is derived from the people; part of the individual’s sovereignty is surrendered to the “order” via a social contract theory. In most instances, the contract is entered at birth or through some other legal means. Disenrollment is a hold-over from a foreign government’s final solution attempt once used to rid the land of Indians. Too many Indigenous people still cannot afford any additional trauma.

Tribal nations maintained and form the foundation upon which the very same sovereign-ty they helped to provide was the foundation upon which their tribal community. These dismembered souls helped to build their tribal nation. Too many Indigenous people typically has to petition for citizenship (usually at birth) and sometimes to Indian Country, an individual is not notified of the tribal nation. Process.

In Indian Country, an individual has upheld these obligations over the course of many years, only to be told they no longer belong to their tribal community. These dismembered souls helped form the foundation upon which their tribal nations maintained and flourished tribal sovereignty, only to be told that the very same sovereignty is being divested. An area of grave concern is the act of disenrolling a tribal member. Tribal governments refuse to engage in local or national disenrollment conversations, citing the federal court decision Santa Clara Pueblo v. Martinez and calling the act of disenrolling a sovereign prerogative. This is not only against the trust that comes from a foreign government’s attempted “final solution” attempt to rid the land of Indians, but it is not in the interest of tribal governments and inter-tribal organizations. Continued failure to engage in any formal dialogue or to devise a tribal disenrollment solution may grant a hold for a federal solution to the violations of Indian’s civil and human rights.

Right now, it is mostly “greenwashing” of Indigenous leaders who are taking a stand, such as through today’s #StopDisenrollment social media movement, but what Indian Country truly needs is elected tribal leaders to do or say something to help stop the self-destruction and immediate disenrollment before another Indian life is lost.

The disenrollment epidemic has graduated to epidemic status, a fact clearly exemplified by Dr. Wilkins work. With less federally recognized Indians, disenrolled Indians no longer qualify for federal and tribal programs. An area of grave concerns is in the field of psychological trauma. American Indians already suffer the general public in suicide and depression as well as addictive traits such as alcoholism and drugs.

Disenrollment is a hold-over from a foreign government’s final solution attempt once used to rid the land of Indians. Indian Country simply cannot afford any additional trauma. We have endured quite enough. A real and continued solution is to never leave them behind, to remain with them in their time of need.

Sen. John McCain stated a year ago, “I oppose disenrollment because it undermines an Indian’s – and in fact all of our – heritage and lineage.” Indian Country has created a new category of Indian who has had their identity undermined, their arealty muddled, and their lives voided. In the final analysis, it will be Indian Country that will suffer from the disenrollment.

Dr. Deron Marquez

Southern California

The Torres Martinez Desert Cabuilla Indians Propose to Build $2-Billion Replacement Prison

The Torres Martinez Desert Cabuilla Indians in Southern California proposes to build an 8,000-bed prison on its remote reservations next to the Salton Sea and lease it to the state — a project that would allow for future expansion as needed. But at least one local leader familiar with the project questions whether the community as a whole has embraced the idea of building these institutions, said Assembly member Eduardo Garcia, a Coachella Democrat whose district includes the site of the proposed prison.

Riverside County already has a minimum security prison in Thermal and is expanding it in Indio. The Torres Martinez leaders, however, say their main motivation for the prison project is environmental. Renderings show the facility would be built up against a mountain and bordered by open desert and agriculture. The facility would be designed to restore the dying Salton Sea, 11,000 acres of which are included in their land. Wastewater would then be filtered and pumped into the sea, according to Chairman Thomas Torrez.

“When I talk to my membership, they are adamant about having and seeing something done about the Salton Sea, and they’re tired of studies after studies after studies,” he said. “They want to see something done that would be tangible, something that they could see.”

The tribe’s partners include Temescal-based Tribal Nations Rehabs, a private land management company that partners with the tribe to develop the land and gain access to the water for the Salton Sea, and Phoenix-based Sage Concepts LLC. The California Tribal Business Alliance is supporting the tribe’s efforts.

Denis Turner CEO of Tribal Nations Rehabilitation & Corrections said it has already secured more than $2 billion for the project. He offers the report from the Legislative Analyst’s Office, which said the state’s 12 older prisons including the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, the California Institution for Men in Chino and the California Institution for Women in Corona — and transfer both inmates and staff to the proposed desert facility.

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Chairman Thomas Torrez

CEO Denis Turner

The project offer a solution to the state’s infrastructure woes: The Department of Corrections could close its older prisons including the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, the California Institution for Men in Chino and the California Institution for Women in Corona — and transfer both inmates and staff to the proposed desert facility.

So when will it be the right time to address the crisis? Are the inmates going to be set free upon the closing of the prisons? Is there even any discussion at the state level addressing the problems?

Maybe the Tribe should be talking to the federal prison officials as the are facing the same problems.

Source: Indian Country Today

August 1, 2020

The American Indian Reporter
Open Society Foundations, the philanthropic arm of the billionnaire George Soros, is investing $220 million in emerging organizations and leaders building power in Black communities across the U.S.

The largest share for the investment, $150 million, will be through a set of five-year grants to Black-led organizations focused on racial equality, the organization announced.

"It is inspiring and powerful to experience this transformational moment in the racial justice movement," Open Society Foundations President Patrick Geaurd said in a statement. "We are honored to be able to carry on the vital work of fighting for rights, dignity, and equity for oppressed people the world over started by our founder and chair, George Soros."

Some of the organizations receiving the grants are fighting for expanding voting rights, while others are fighting for police reform. Recipients of this set of investments include Black Voters Matter, Circle for Justice Innovations, Re-pairs of the Breach and the Equi-Justice Initiative, according to Open Society Foundations.

In addition to the five-year grants, Open Society Foundations said it is also making a series of investments totaling $70 million in "more immediate efforts to advance racial justice."

"The investment includes efforts to support local governments and organizations seeking to strengthen local expertise in understanding and navigating municipal budgets as cities 'reimagine public safety' and more 'beyond the culture of criminalization and incarceration.'

"We are heartening to learn that a law enforcement agency altered evidence in order to prosecute an innocent member of the community."

As a Native American elder I can tell you genocide went on for decades in our own homeland, stolen land, moved to reservations, not recognized as citizens till 1924, wow, big deal. We didn't need the dominant culture to declare us human beings.

"Far from taking the higher ground, I'm with this woman, the heart of a lion. It's time to lay down the social agendas, hate for the color of your skin, whatever divides us. We're all Creators children. Bless her for making a stand of the latest hypocrisy."

Nick Sandmann, Catholic High School Teen settles Washington Post lawsuit. For $250 million. In February 2020 a settlement with CNN was reached at $250 million. An estimated 10 more lawsuits are still pending.

This message was Posted on Facebook in Reference to the two Ladies who Poured Paint on the Black Lives Matter Painted on the Street in Front of Trump Towers in New York City.

"As a Native American elder I can tell you genocide went on for decades in our own homeland, stolen land, moved to reservations, not recognized as citizens till 1924, wow, big deal..."
America Public Schools prepare to train children in Marxist - BLM curriculum

Activist educators allowing radical movement to ‘warp’ students’ worldviews

Contributed by Franklin Mott, Moreno Valley CA

Public schools nationwide are adopting Black Lives Matter curricula presenting themes such as “systemic racism,” “police brutality,” and “white privilege” while turning children into “little Marxists,” according to the Federalist. The New York City Department of Education is one of many school systems to roll out the BLM-themed lesson plans this fall, wrote Sumo Rashmuth and Katie Jensen. This summer, North Carolina’s largest school system, in Wake County, launched a website providing BLM lessons for teachers to use in classrooms and for parents to use at home. It urges teachers to “address the injustices that exist beyond education by the conversations we have with others, by speaking up when we see hate, by supporting efforts that oppose racism and oppression, and by directly engaging in advocacy work.” The Federalist writers contend that while condemning racism is laudable, it’s not what’s really happening.

By bringing BLM into the classroom, activist educators are allowing the most radically divisive movement in modern American history to warp children’s worldviews, they write. Wake County’s BLM teaching resource source appears to be a legitimate civics education resource, but it takes out a cubelike recruiting process for students to follow. Step one: Recognize your white privilege. Step two: Learn the dos and don’ts of being an ally. Step three: Recruit more numbers to learn steps one and two.

Step three of the recruitment process states that “social equity accountability must be tied to specific outcomes.” The outcomes clearly are centered on activism on behalf of the BLM movement. Noting BLM founder, Patrisse Cullors is featured on the homepage of the Wake County School System’s website, the Federalist points out she and another co-founder are self-proclaimed “trained Marxists.”

In a 2018 interview, Cullors also boasted of recruiting training from a former member of the domestic terrorist group Weather Underground who was charged with attempted murder of police officers in Boston in 1970. (Mill Ayers and Marie Reynolds-Doe, terrorist group.) Cullors is a vocal anti-Israel activist and close ally of the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. She organized a BLM event in Los Angeles May 30, 2020 in which three Jewish schools and five synagogues were vandalized with graffiti such as “Free Palestine” and “F*ck Israel.”

Another public school plan, in Philadelphia, aims to “work towards an anti-racist agenda” and “learning mindsets and practices rooted in Black Liberation.” The Federalist reports,

Black liberation is a Marxist theological and social movement that emerged in the late 1960s that re-gards America and all of its institutions as “systemically racist.”

President Barack Obama’s former spiritual leader Rev. Jeremiah Wright was a devotee who famously summed up the movement in a sermon: “No, no, no, no, not God bless America! God damn America! God damn these white, greedy, unscrupulous, militaristic, capitalist pai-dons.”

The Transformation of America
American Indians Heading for U.S. Congress

Source: Indian Country Today by Graham Lee Brewer * June 30, 2020 - Contributed By Andrea Marquez, Soboba Rev CA

NORMAN, Okla. – Three Native candidates running for Congress in tryv, Oklahoma have easily advanced to the November 3, 2020 general election... Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Cherokee, earned more than 79 percent of the vote. (Photo Bottom) Mullin advances to face Danell Lujan, Cherokee, in November. Lujan ran unopposed in the Democratic primary. (Photo Top Right) Mullin is seeking a fifth term serving eastern Oklahoma’s Congressional District 2.

The fiscal and social conservative rancher and business owner received some backlash, even from fellow Republicans the late Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, during his last reelection for breaking a pledge he made to not seek more than three terms.

Mullin describes his tenure on Capitol Hill as a “duty” and has said in recent interviews that he still feels like he has work to get done before he retires from office.

“He is a strong supporter of President Trump’s agenda to defeat the socialist in Washington, D.C., defend our cherished traditional values and protect the sanctity of life,” according to his campaign website.

Oklahoma State legislative races with Native candidates:

- WON: Jennifer Wilkinson, Cheyenne/Atapaha, Demo., Senate 45
- LOST: Matt Heeox, Muscogee Creek, Democrat, Senate 15
- LOST: Carl Hotvedt, Cherokee, Democrat, Senate 35
- RUNOFF: Shane Jett, Cherokee, Republican, Senate 17
- WON: Chelsey Branham, Chickasaw/Cherokee, Demo., House 83
- WON: Mark McBride, Potawatomi, Republican, House 33
- WON: Summer Wesley, Chocktaw, Democrat, House 100
- WON: Scott Feigl, Choctaw, Republican, House 16
- WON: Aja Pittman, Seminole, Democrat, House 99
- WON: Mike Odom, Cherokee, Republican, House 81
- WON: Mark Van_enum, Cherokee, Republican, House 74
- WON: Brad Boles, Cherokee, Republican, House 11
- WON: Collin Wallis, Cherokee, Democrat, House 83

American Indian, Darren Parry wins Democratic nomination for Utah 1st Congressional District.

Source: Indian Country Today

By: Ahlyah Chavez, Kewa Pueblo, is a reporter-producer at Indian Country Today's Phoenix Bureau

Darren Parry, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, has officially won the Democratic nomination for Utah’s 1st Congressional District. He will face Republican Blake Moore in November’s general election.

If Parry wins in November, he will be the first Democrat to represent Utah’s 1st District – which serves the northern part of the state, including the Uintah reservation – in nearly 40 years.

He is also one of eight Native candidates who won primary elections in their bids to Congress. None for others are set for August. Parry’s win comes eight days after Utah’s primary election was held. Votes between Parry and Jamie Cheek, his opponent, were so close that they were still being tallied.

On Wednesday night, Cheek formally conceded.

Parry won his election with 50.9 percent of the vote, while Cheek had 49.1 percent.

“We are grateful for the trust shown to us by Democrats in Congressional District 1,” Parry said in a statement after his win. “We will continue sharing our vision for a better Utah and a better country with all of the residents of our district.”

Parry’s bid for office comes after the first Democrat to represent Utah’s 1st District since 1980 announced his retirement from Congress after 17 years.

Previously, Parry served as Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation Chairman. He stepped down to run for Congress but remains on the tribal council.

His campaign boasts endorsements from U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland of New Mexico, the Bear River Sunrise Movement and “the Sioux Chef,” Sean Sherman.

Parry is an author of “The Bear River Massacre: A Shoshone History.” He serves on several boards including the American Indian Services Board, American West Heritage Center and the Utah State Museum Board.

Indian Country Today Reports, Joe Biden campaign steps up in Indian Country after almost Fifty-Years of ignoring them!

But hey, he’s a Democrat and he thinks he’s Columbus and just discovered the American Indians and is going to help them. Ok, nuff said. (Photo Top Right)

So many bad things have happened to us and none of it was our fault...
My personal opinion is that there is no one blanket answer. There are too many variables - size of district, student populations, district finances, community socioeconomic status, geography, broadband access, to name a few - that must be considered and are so different across the country, that one resolution will not fit all. For many, “sheltering in place” may be the best option.

This, like so much, all comes down to the local community, its leadership and its creativity.

As I have opined several times, there can be existing times for tribal communities to fashion the educational environment and curriculum they would like to see for their K-12 students. I will address post secondary at another time.

Where there is a choice to go back to a congragate school or stay home and do distance learning or for those whose distance learning is the only option but parents cannot - or will not - serve as teachers/proctors, small communities have a distinct advantage.

Taking advantage of counsel chambers, churches, other tribal facilities with properly ventilated meeting rooms, libraries, museums, etc., usually distant spaces can be created. School districts may be very grateful for additional space. Connectivity may be an issue but there are enough technogeks among us to resolve that.

Adults (or very responsible teens) who interact well with kids can serve as facilitators for the average two hours of instruction supplied by their local district. But then any subject the community wishes to have young to young may be added for another hour or two, by video or community instructors.

Many museums and libraries are offering free access to programming and instruction to keep their patrons engaged. There is no reason that your kiddos cannot visit Indian Country throughout the country or enjoy museums around the world as part of their day.

If there is a tribally operated school in your region, you may be able to begin a telecommuting arrangement with them for appropriate instruction.

If student population is large enough or available space constractive, there can be “learning pods” scheduling, one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Or staggered days of attendance by each pod.

While traditional sports and other PE activities are not recommended, physical activity should not be ignored but no basketball, volleyball or football!

This also is a propitious time for those that like teaching to get their masters if they already have a post secondary degree.

Nor that distance learning has simply planted itself within our world, there are many alternative colleges looking for students, the majority of which do concentrate on education. There are hundreds on Google.

The same is true for the (College) baccalaureate level; there are few for PhDs but they are there.

Understand the Difference Saul Alinsky’s “8-steps to Create a Socialist State”

I know it appears that I am redundant with the ongoing Saga of Saul Alinsky’s “8-steps to Create a Socialist State.” The 8-steps are the bedrock of the American Socialist Democratic Party. I believe it important for you to understanding what it means.

First, Who was Saul Alinsky? He was an American Marxist community organizer and writer. He is generally considered to be the founder of modern community organizing.

He is often noted for his book Rules for Radical (1971) and his “8-steps to topple a nation and create a socialist state” which are as follows:

1) Healthcare - Control healthcare and you control the people.
2) Poverty - Increase the Poverty level as high as possible, poor people are easier to control and will not fight back if you are providing everything for them to live.
3) Debt - Increase the debt to an unsustainable level. That way you are able to increase taxes, and this will produce more poverty.
4) Gun Control - Remove the ability to defend themselves from the Government. That way you are able to create a police state.
5) Welfare - Take control of every aspect of their lives (Food, Housing, and Income).
6) Education - Take control of what people read and listen to — take control of what children learn in school.
7) Religion - Remove the belief in the God from the Government and schools.
8) Class Warfare - Divide people into the wealthy and the poor. This will cause more discontent and it will be easier to tax (Tax) the wealthy with the support of the poor.

Is this the America you want?...
John Echohawk, Pawnee: A True American Indian Warrior
'Treaties are still in full force'

My View By Emma E. Salgado, Jr.

Most American Indians under the age of 60 most likely don’t know who John Echohawk is, or what he has done for the recognition of American Indian Treaty Rights and the Human Rights in America.

John Echohawk was born on August 24, 1945 and is an enrolled member of the Pawnee Tribe in Oklahoma. In early 1970 at the age of 24, Echohawk received his Law Degree, becoming the first Native American to graduate from the University of New Mexico School of Law, and one of the less than 20 American Indian attorneys the Nation. He decided to use his knowledge to benefit American Indian legal and political issues.

Shortly after law school, he joined the staff of California Indian Legal Services (CILS) which was the only American Indian legal service in the County. CILS was funded by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Dr. Redal was a tribal member of the Hoopa tribe in Northern California and a professor at the University of California at Davis.

Later the same year in 1970, Echohawk joined other lawyers and tribal members to form the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) which was modeled on California Indian Legal Services on a National level. Dr. Redal also played a significant role in establishing the organization.

The Native American Rights Fund is non-profit law firm dedicated to protecting indigenous rights in the USA.

Echohawk centered the Native American Rights Fund’s focus around preserving treaties, protecting tribal resources, protecting human rights, ensuring government responsibility, expanding Indian law and educating people about Indian issues.

Fifty years ago the Native American Rights Fund hit the ground in the United States Government as it ended the Government relationship between the American Indian Tribes and the United States. As the Nixon administration was established the “Governments Termination Policies” and recognized Tribal Sovereignty.

The Native American Rights Fund played a significant role in changing the Government to Government relationship between the American Indian Tribes and the United States. The Nixon administration as it ended the “Governments Termination Policies” and recognized Tribal Sovereignty.

The Native American Rights Fund, under the leadership of John Echohawk has a range of civil rights successes, from government recognition of the reach of tribal sovereignty to passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The Native American Rights Fund embodies the mission to preserve tribal existence, protect tribal natural resources, promote human rights, ensure accountability of governments, and develop Native American law and educate the public about Native American rights, laws, and issues.

John is the older brother of Idaho politician Larry Echohawk, who served as Idaho’s State Attorney General from 1991-1993, and as the first director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the President Barack Obama administration. John was influential in encouraging Larry to follow him in gaining a law degree. John Echohawk served on President Obama’s first transition team on Indian affairs. He was considered by the Obama administration as a possible nominee to the federal bench.

The brothers are cousins of Walter Echohawk, a senior staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund who contributed to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The following comment were made by John Echohawk, as a recent video interview with Mark Trahant, Editor on Indian Country Today. The video was funded by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in Southern California a anchoring Indian Country Today this week.

“Tribal leaders always make that clear that our issues are not, you know, Democratic issues or Republican issues. They’re basically national issues. They’re opposition, that’s the way they’re dealt with on the Hill.”

“It really sprang out of this Tribal Supreme Court Project, again. I think it was 2013, I think seven years ago, the Supreme Court decided a case called Shelby County and in that case, basically they gutted the Federal Voting Rights Act, the key provision in that act, which required a pre-clearance of changes in state voting laws by the Justice Department before they went into effect.”

“Because there are a lot of discrimination, because there are a lot of obstacles to Indian voting. And based on all of those hearings across the country where we explored the obstacles to Indian voting. And based on all of those hearings across the country, we didn’t really have a lot of those obstacles that our people face trying to vote. And we worked with Senator Udall and others in the Congress to put together a Native American Voting Rights Act that addresses those issues that causes problems in terms of trying to vote. And that’s pending in the Congress right now.”

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“Laughter is the best medicine.” - Will Rogers, 28 April 1935

America is just like an insane asylum. There is not a soul in it who admit they are crazy.

Democrats banned this gathering...

“IT turns out clinging to our bibles and guns was the smartest thing we ever did.” - Mary

Could we please make that Pay per View?

34 people died in Chicago this week from COVID gunshot wounds.

They will be voting by mail.

“FACT: Black Lives Matter riots have destroyed more innocent black lives in the last month than white police officers have in a decade.” - Coulson Owens

Why is it okay for every race to be proud of their heritage except for white people?

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