



U.S. Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

Washington, DC 20530

September 20, 2017

Dear Tribal Representative:

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is seeking nominations for members of the Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women (Task Force). First chartered on March 31, 2008, the Task Force has assisted the United States Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and OVW in the implementation of a program of research that examines violence against Indian women in Indian Country, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, murder, and sex trafficking, and in evaluating the effectiveness of federal, state, tribal and local responses to these crimes. The Task Force was authorized by Section 904(a)(3) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-162) and is subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. To ensure that the Department of Justice continues to receive timely advice from the Task Force, the Task Force was re-chartered and filed with Congress on July 13, 2016.

The Task Force last met in March of 2013. Because so much time had passed since the last Task Force meeting, some members could no longer serve. In October of 2016, OVW sought nominations for new Task Force members. OVW received only nine submissions in response to last year's request for nominees; therefore we have decided to re-solicit for nominations to ensure that we have a nominee pool that reflects the entities described in the statute and that has diverse expertise and experience. By statute, Task Force members must be representatives of one of the following entities: tribal governments; national tribal domestic violence and sexual assault non-profit organizations; or national tribal organizations.

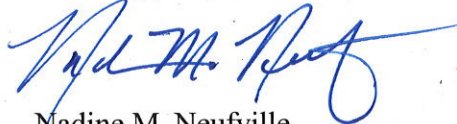
Task Force members have provided valuable feedback on NIJ's program of research priorities, research design strategies, research and evaluation protocol issues, and research and evaluation findings from studies conducted to date. Moving forward, the Task Force will continue to play an important role in shaping the program and will assist NIJ and OVW with disseminating results that will influence policy and practice. The Task Force is a working body that will produce reports and other important documents. Task Force members are expected to: attend meetings that usually last 1-2 days; be prepared to discuss topics and materials distributed in advance of each meeting; and draft written recommendations and reports, as necessary. Additional information on the Task Force can be found on the OVW and NIJ websites at: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/section-904-task-force> and <https://www.nij.gov/topics/tribal-justice/vaw-research/pages/task-force.aspx>. OVW and NIJ hope to schedule the next meeting for the spring of 2018.

For each nominee, the nominating entity should submit a cover letter recommending the individual to serve and explaining the individual's qualifications to serve on the Task Force, as well as a copy of the individual's resume or curriculum vitae. The cover letter and supporting documentation should be submitted by e-mail to OVW.taskforce@usdoj.gov **no later than**

Tuesday, November 14, 2017. OVW will conduct a vetting process on the nominations, which will include a telephone interview, public records search, input from NIJ, and forwarding the nominees' names to the Attorney General, including those recommended by OVW for selection, for his approval.

Please feel free to contact Sherriann C. Moore, Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs at (202) 616-0039, if you have questions regarding the nomination process. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future and working with the new Task Force. Thank you for your continued dedication to addressing violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nadine M. Neufville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Nadine M. Neufville
Acting Director