



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 December 2023

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-eighth session

11–22 March 2024

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Native American Fatherhood and Families Association's (NAFFA) mission is to strengthen, keep and reunite families by responsibly involving fathers and mothers in the lives of their children, families and communities.

While NAFFA sees the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society in all countries of the world, we are concerned with the trials and difficulties the family unit is experiencing today. We believe that the role of the family is vital for all communities in cultural, ethical and religious values which is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support.

The family unit is sacred to the Native American culture which NAFFA represents. The family unit is vital to strong and healthy communities. NAFFA also believes in the sanctity of marriage where spouses are full and equal, contributing partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected.

We recognize the vital importance of the role that each parent has with their children as we identify specific roles that parents must play to increase success and happiness as a family unit. Parents are the solution to addressing the challenges with their children and they are the greatest untapped resource. They must take the lead in keeping families together.

Our potential as a people is linked to our past. NAFFA supports encouraging parents to teach their children about their ancestors by telling the stories of their family history and teaching their values. This helps families realize the great blessings we enjoy today. It was because of these ancestors paving the way that we do enjoy the opportunities we have today.

NAFFA teaches that we all come from greatness. Greatness does not come by luck or chance but through continuous work and effort. This greatness then leads us to goodness. Every effort must be made toward becoming a good and valuable person. As we serve our families and communities well, we are a blessing to them.

We believe in fostering integrity, dependability, courage and truth. These attributes provide direction and empower us with confidence, gratitude, respect and fairness.

We believe that life is a journey of learning how to solve problems. When we start solving problems as families and communities, we become a force of goodness to our families, communities and the world.
