

**UAA Working Group to Address
Gender Violence in Alaska**
January 2020

Submitted to: UAA Chancellor, Cathy Sandeen,

Submitted by: Kimberly Pace, Term Assistant Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of Women's Studies and Nelta Edwards, Professor of Sociology and on behalf of the ad hoc group of students and faculty working since 2016 to bring a Women and Gender Studies major to UAA.

Rationale: Gender violence is one of the most pressing social issues in Alaska today. Alaska has the highest rates of rape and sexual assault in the nation. Alaska Native women are particularly at risk and, as in other areas of the US and Canada, their cases are far too often neglected by the criminal justice system. An ad-hoc group of UAA faculty and students have been advocating for a Women or Gender Studies major at UAA with a full-time, tenured, director since 2016. (There is no Women and Gender Studies major in Alaska, both UAA and UAF have minors.) Demand for this type of education is high among UAA students, evidenced by continuous enrollments of about 90 percent of capacity in WS A200: Introduction to Women's Studies over the last decade. The current State of Alaska fiscal situation and the current and impending cuts to the university preclude the pursuit of a new major right now. However, UAA can play an important role in facilitating conversations among people around the state who are concerned about and/or who working on violence against women in Alaska.

Proposed meeting schedule: 1 hour each month during the academic year.

General Goal: To make UAA a gathering space for myriad groups around the Alaska working on violence against women. UAA will provide the physical space, organizational capacity and expertise as needed to support conversations, networking and drawing public attention to the issue of violence against women in Alaska.

Specific Goals:

1. Fall semester 2019 hold meeting with interested stakeholders to plan for future events.
2. Spring semester 2020 (March). Host a speaker on sexual violence in Alaska
3. Fall semester 2020. Host a panel of sexual violence in Alaska
4. Spring 2020 (March) Host a one to two day conference/workshop on sexual violence in Alaska.

Co-Chairs: Kimberly Pace, Political Science and Women and Gender Studies (kipace@alaska.edu) and Nelta Edwards, Sociology (nmedwards@alaska.edu).

- Charlene Apok, Native Movement
- Betty Bang, UAA
- Amber Christianson Fulmer, UAA
- Bridget Coffou, UAA
- Veri di Suvero, AKPIRG
- Sierra Gregg, STAR
- Marya Halvorsen, UAA student
- Panigkaq Agatha John-Shields, UAA
- Theresa John, UAF
- Ingrid Diane Johnson, UAA
- Mara Kimmel
- Kendra Kloster, Native People's Movement
- Shawna Larson, Native Movement
- Theresa Lyons, YWCA
- Rebecca Maseda, UAA
- Rebekah Moras, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Shirlie Morin, STAR
- Paul Ongtooguk, UAA
- Sarah Prielipp, UAA
- Matthew Pacillo, UAA student
- Don Reardon, UAA
- Libby Roderick, CAFÉ
- Renee Royal, Alaska Native Justice Center
- Quinten Simeon, UAA
- Delaney Theil, UAA Student
- Andre Thorne, Multicultural Center