



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

June 27, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *Loretta E. Lynch*

SUBJECT: Recommendations of the National Coordination Committee on the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative for Improving Federal Response to Sexual Violence in Indian Country

Sexual abuse is a devastating issue that plagues communities across the nation, reaching epidemic levels in Indian Country. In response to this issue, the National Coordination Committee (Committee) on the American Indian and Alaskan Native Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Sexual Assault Response Team (AI/AN SANE-SART) Initiative prepared the attached recommendations for strengthening and improving the federal response to sexual abuse in tribal communities.

The Committee has identified actions in eight key areas that highlight the difficulty in combating sexual violence and the need for continued and increased cooperation between federal and tribal partners to coordinate a unified response. Today, I am directing United States Attorneys with Indian Country jurisdiction to take practical steps in two of these key areas. I ask that you work with the Office of the Deputy Attorney General to implement each of these directives based on the Indian Country jurisdiction of your district.

- 1) Pursuant to Key Area One of the Committee recommendations, by August 12, 2016, all United States Attorneys with jurisdiction to prosecute crimes in Indian Country based on Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1152 and 1153, shall meet with federal partners (FBI, BIA, and IHS) and tribal partners to develop written sexual violence guidelines that detail specific responsibilities of each federal partner. United States Attorneys shall implement those guidelines by September 9, 2016. United States Attorneys with Indian Country jurisdiction but without the authority to prosecute crimes based on Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1152 and 1153 shall discuss federal sexual violence response with their tribal partners and federal partners as appropriate during annual consultations.
- 2) Pursuant to Key Area Four of the Committee recommendations, United States Attorneys with Indian Country jurisdiction shall ensure that performance appraisals of Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSA) with Indian Country responsibilities include consideration of relevant factors such as AUSA outreach to tribal leaders and victims; training received or delivered; successful and innovative collaboration with federal and tribal partners; and specific efforts to enhance a victim-centered prosecution process, in addition to any other performance metrics currently used.

Memorandum from the Attorney General
Subject: Recommendations for Improving Federal Response to
Sexual Violence in Tribal Nations

Page 2

These collective efforts will improve the federal response to sexual violence in tribal nations and will increase community safety. I urge you to continue to foster collaborative relationships with federal and tribal law enforcement and tribal communities to put an end to sexual violence. Thank you for your enduring dedication to justice in a challenging area of work that is of the utmost importance.

Attachment