

9th Gathering for Healthy Relations Conference - #G4HR2026
Rooted and Rising: 20 Years of Collective Heart Work

Day One – October 27, 2026 - Tuesday	
8:00 – 5:00	Beverage Station Registration and Exhibitors/Vendors
Chandler Ballroom 2-4	
8:30 – 9:30	Mistress of Ceremonies: Rose M. Lashawaat Quilt and Tania Harvey Opening Session: • Posting of Colors Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84 • Shawl Ceremony SWIWC • Traditional Blessing Theron Honyumptewa, Hopi Tribe Welcoming Remarks: • Mary Howe, SWIWC Governing Board President • Leanne Guy, Executive Director, SWIWC Rooted and Rising Remark
9:30 – 10:00	Keynote Speaker: From Advocate to Tribal Leader: Using Sovereignty to Build Safer Communities • Rosa S. Alvarez, Tribal Council Secretary, Pascua Yaqui Tribe This session explores the journey from lived experience to victim advocacy and tribal leadership, demonstrating how personal experiences can inspire meaningful change for individuals, families, and communities. Participants will learn the importance of building and sustaining collaborative relationships among victim advocates, tribal programs, community members, law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and tribal leadership to provide coordinated, culturally responsive support for victims and survivors. The session will also examine the critical role of tribal leadership in remaining connected to community voices, service providers, and advocacy efforts to strengthen trust, accountability, and public safety. Finally, the discussion will highlight the significance of tribal sovereignty and the authority of Tribal Nations to develop and implement policies, laws, and culturally grounded approaches that protect their citizens, promote healing, and ensure the long-term safety and well-being of their communities.
10:00 - 12:00	General Session: A Call to Warriors: Strength and Accountability • Waylon Pahona • Chucho Ruiz A Call to Warriors invites Indigenous men and relatives to explore what it means to stand in protection of women, children, 2SLGBTQ+ relatives, and the <i>entire</i> community. Presenters will have an honest conversation about healthy masculinity, accountability, survivor support, prevention of domestic and sexual violence, anti-trafficking action, and the role of men in responding to MMIW/MMIP. This session centers warriorhood while honoring our kinship systems, service, humility, healing, and the responsibility to protect life. Rooted and Rising Remark
12:00 – 1:30	L U N C H On Your Own
1:30 – 1:45	Rooted and Rising Remark Interactive Activity Waylon Pahona

1:45 – 3:00	General Session: Invisible Communities: Advocating for Safety, Healing and Nonviolence for All Our Relatives • Lenny Hayes • Honor Fisher • Mattee Jim • Eddie George In this current moment, populations are often forgotten, underserved, and treated as invisible throughout Indian country. These populations include Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ people and those who are vulnerable, such as people with disabilities. A panel of leaders will discuss why we must not forget these populations and how we can continue to serve them as good relatives.
3:00 – 4:45	General Session: A Call to Elders: Honoring, Supporting and Advocating For and With our Elders and Aging Relatives • Peggy Jo Archer • Caroline F. Antone Our Elders and aging relatives deserve to live with safety, dignity, connection, and care. This session centers compassionate, culturally grounded approaches to working alongside Elders, including how to recognize needs, respond respectfully, and strengthen support for aging community members impacted by violence, loss, and/or trauma. Together, participants will reflect on the importance of listening, cultural connection, and advocacy that honors each Elder's voice, wisdom, choices, and lived experience as knowledge keepers.
4:45 – 5:00	Interactive Activity: Reclaiming Our Sacredness Waylon Pahona & Rose M. Lashawaat Quilt
5:00	Daily Reflection and Smudging Caroline F. Antone

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Day Two – October 28, 2026 – Wednesday	
8:00 – 5:00	Beverage Station Registration and Exhibitors/Vendors
Chandler Ballroom 2-4	
8:30 – 8:45	Centering and Grounding with Johanna Corpeno Rooted and Rising Remark
8:45 – 9:45	General Session: Implementing Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction: What Tribes Need to Know • Coleen Thoene Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) represents one of the most significant developments in tribal criminal justice in recent decades. This session will provide an overview of STCJ under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), including the legal framework, implementation requirements, and practical realities of exercising criminal jurisdiction over certain non-Indian offenders. Using examples and lessons drawn from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's experience—from the original VAWA pilot project through current implementation—the presentation will examine successes, ongoing challenges, evolving legal developments, and practical considerations for tribes exploring or operating STCJ programs.
9:45 - 10:00	Interactive Activity Waylon Pahona & Johanna Corpeno Rooted and Rising Remark
10:00 - 11:00	General Session: Let's Stoodis: Moving Together from Healing to Action for Safer Communities • Brandon Nahsonhoya • Dwight Francisco This session invites participants to turn shared concern into collective action. It is action-centered for relatives who are ready to turn concern into practical support, connection, and protection for their communities. Grounded in healing and cultural strength, it will explore practical ways to respond to violence, support those harmed, strengthen healthy relationships, and mobilize families, programs, and communities for action and transformative change. Rooted and Rising Remark
11:00 - 12:00	General Session: Be The Voice!: Speaking Up for Safety and Accountability • Reva Stewart • Leanna Walker Silence can leave people isolated. Speaking up—when it is safe to do so—can interrupt harm, help a survivor feel less alone, and remind a community that violence, exploitation, and indifference are not acceptable. This session is about finding practical, respectful, and culturally grounded ways to speak up for safety and accountability. Attendees will explore how to use their voices in ways that protect rather than expose relatives who have experienced harm. The session will center survivor dignity, family leadership, confidentiality, and safety while examining how community members can challenge the normalization of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and the MMIW/MMIP crisis. Together, attendees will reflect on how to use their voices responsibly to challenge violence, support survivors, and strengthen systems of protection and justice. Rooted and Rising Remark
12:00 – 1:30	L U N C H SWIWC Warrior Awards, Native 2S/LGBTQ+ Honoring Ceremony, and Eleanor E. Roehrig Victim Advocate Award

1:30 – 2:45	General Session: Broadening Your Program Services to Include Culturally Specific Populations • Elton Naswood • Hannabah Blue • Jonathan Clark The workshop will address helping programs identify types of services and support for Native 2SLGBTQ+ victim/survivors, providing policies/procedures/guidelines for programs to include when providing services to Native 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and community, identifying prevention and awareness activities as it relates to Native 2SLGBTQ+ community, assist programs in providing a safe space within their programs/organizations for the Native 2SLGBTQ+ community, assisting programs to provide safe referrals for Native 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and community, how programs can support Native 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and community, and providing Native 2SLGBTQ+ resources. The workshop will also provide information on The Two Spirit & Native LGBTQ+ Center for Equity (2S Center), a national non-profit organization developed to address the needs for advocacy resources, violence prevention, and healing in the Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ and broader communities. Rooted and Rising Remark
2:45 - 3:00	B R E A K
3:00 – 5:00	General Session: Being a Good Relative: Building Circles of Care for Safety, Healing and Growth • Bernadine Beyale • Johanna Corpeno Being a good relative means choosing connection, responsibility, and care. It is not a title, but a <i>practice</i>. This session will be interactive in how we as relatives can prevent and respond to violence while further acknowledging that safety does not begin only when someone goes missing or when violence has already occurred. Safety begins in our homes, workplaces, schools, ceremonies, gatherings, online spaces, and everyday relationships. This session considers how families, friends, advocates, and community partners can walk alongside our relatives impacted by violence—without blame or isolation—while strengthening their networks and cultural practices that make safe spaces and healing possible.
5:00	Daily Reflection and Smudging Caroline F. Antone
6:00 - 9:00	SWIWC's 20 Year Celebration Dinner Rooted and Rising: 20 Years of Collective Heart Work Celebration

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Day Three – October 29, 2026 – Thursday	
8:00 – 1:00	Beverage Station Exhibitors/Vendors
Chandler Ballroom 2-4	
8:30 – 9:00	Centering and Grounding Johanna Corpeno Rooted and Rising Remark
9:00 – 10:00	General Session: Collective Heart Work - Leanne Guy - Rose M. Lashawaat Quilt - Carey Onsaе-Namoki
10:00- 11:00	Closing Plenary: Rooted, Rising and Resistance: Finding Joy Through Culture, Traditions and Song Rose M. Lashawaat Quilt
11:00 – 11:30	Breath is Medicine Johanna Corpeno
11:30 - 12:00	Closing Address: SWIWC Rooted and Rising Remark Closing Session: - Traditional Blessing - Retrieval of Shawls SWIWC - Retrieval of Colors Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84
12:00	Closing Reflection and Smudging Caroline F. Antone

No federal funding will be used to purchase food/beverages.

*Conference Agenda subject to change

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