



***South Central Yearly Meeting***  
*of the Religious Society of Friends in Arkansas,*  
*Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas*

### **Minute on the Indigenous Crisis**

The Peace and Justice Committee of South Central Yearly Meeting reverently holds William Wistar Comfort's fifth Quaker testimony "solicitude for the welfare of a native people who have been wronged and defrauded in our national history." We abhor the continued denigration of the Indigenous evident in this Nation's culture – a Nation that permits this culture to spill out over its borders like a poison.

We work to further the cause of this country's first climate refugees, the unrecognized tribes of Terrebonne Parish in Louisiana.

We stand with the many tribes – especially the Dakota Sioux – who struggle against industry to keep their rivers clean, their fish healthy, their bodies of water pure. Mni Wiconi. Water is Sacred. Water is Life.

We support tribal efforts made to keep members safe from Covid-19, including exercising the right to shut down land and roads (as in South Dakota's Cheyenne River and Oglala Sioux Nations), demanding all possible medical and financial aid be provided to treat the suffering, in particular the Navajo and Hopi of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. We believe the language and culture held in the palms of the elders must be preserved and shared. We must work to alleviate the fear of this loss. Underlying health conditions due to food deserts, lack of fresh water, and a poorly funded Indian Health Service, make the Navajo situation so dire.

We expect cultural resolution regarding Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), thwarting accepted violence and killing of innocent women.

We lift-up the white feather of peace given Friends in 1775.