

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Urging Congress to Pass the Violence Against Women Act of 2021*

### Resolution No. 21-13

**WHEREAS,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee (Creek), representing more than 780,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee (Creek) Nations are Indian Nations with a moral obligation and inherent sovereign right to protect their most vulnerable from the domestic violence epidemic by enabling their respective judicial systems to serve as beacons of home and safety to their citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed with bipartisan support the Violence Against Women Act of 2021. This bill is largely identical to a legislation passed by the same chamber in 2019, which ultimately was not considered by the U.S. Senate.

**WHEREAS,** the ITC passed Resolution No. 19-26 in October 2019 urging the passage of this critical reauthorization. ITC now reaffirms its support with urgency, and asks the United States Senate to consider and pass HR 1620; and

**WHEREAS,** tribal governments and the United States recognize that American Indian women experience rates of violence, most commonly occurring at the hands of non-Native offenders, and even more alarming, American Indian women are less likely to receive the vital resources and support they deserve; and

**WHEREAS,** expanding the jurisdiction of tribal authorities over non-Indian offenders who commit domestic violence and sexual assault offenses within Indian Country is crucial in providing justice for Native women; and

**WHEREAS,** under current law, and reaffirmed in the VAWA of 2021, non-Indian offenders can be prosecuted in tribal court systems for domestic violence, dating violence and criminal violation of a protective order; and

**WHEREAS,** the VAWA of 2021 extends special tribal criminal jurisdiction for assault on law enforcement or a correctional officer, obstruction of justice, sex trafficking; sexual violence and stalking; and



Chuck Hoskin Jr  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Batton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief

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**WHEREAS,** the need for this legislative protection is evident by Congress' continue approval of the VAWA. VAWA was originally drafted in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000, 2005 and 2013; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2013 reauthorization of VAWA expired in 2019, and the U.S. House of Representatives has now passed two reauthorization of this legislation, but the Senate has yet to consider; and

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes encourages the U.S. Senate to urgently approve the Violence Against Women Act of 2021 to ensure protections are available and justice is served in cases where non-Indian offenders commit crimes against women within Indian Country.

## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 9th day of April, 2021, by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



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Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation



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Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation



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Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



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David Hill, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation