

CSWE Statement of Accountability and Reconciliation for Harms Done to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

Recommendations for Social Worker Educators and Social Workers

Acknowledge the Harms done to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

"Acknowledgment is powerful, transformative, and a prerequisite to accountability" (CSWE, 2021).

Forced Assimilation & Cultural Genocide:

- Widespread Child Welfare Programs
- Forced Sterilization
- Inadequate Health Care Provisions
- Inability to Engage in Cultural Practices
- Systemic Racism

Decolonize

Dismantle Settler-Colonialism:

- Value Indigenous Knowledge & Epistemologies
- EDUCATE students on the history of the land's original inhabitants
- Understand trauma- and resilience-informed perspectives from Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
- Don't tokenize or use for financial gain
- Conduct culturally appropriate research that includes tribal members in the process

Advocate for Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination

- Support laws, policies, & practices that uphold and reinforce sovereignty and self-determination
- Advocate for the U.S. government to fulfill treaty obligations to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
- Advocate for funding and support for social, health, & educational programs
- Understand the impact of jurisdictional issues when working with Indigenous & Tribal Peoples in social work

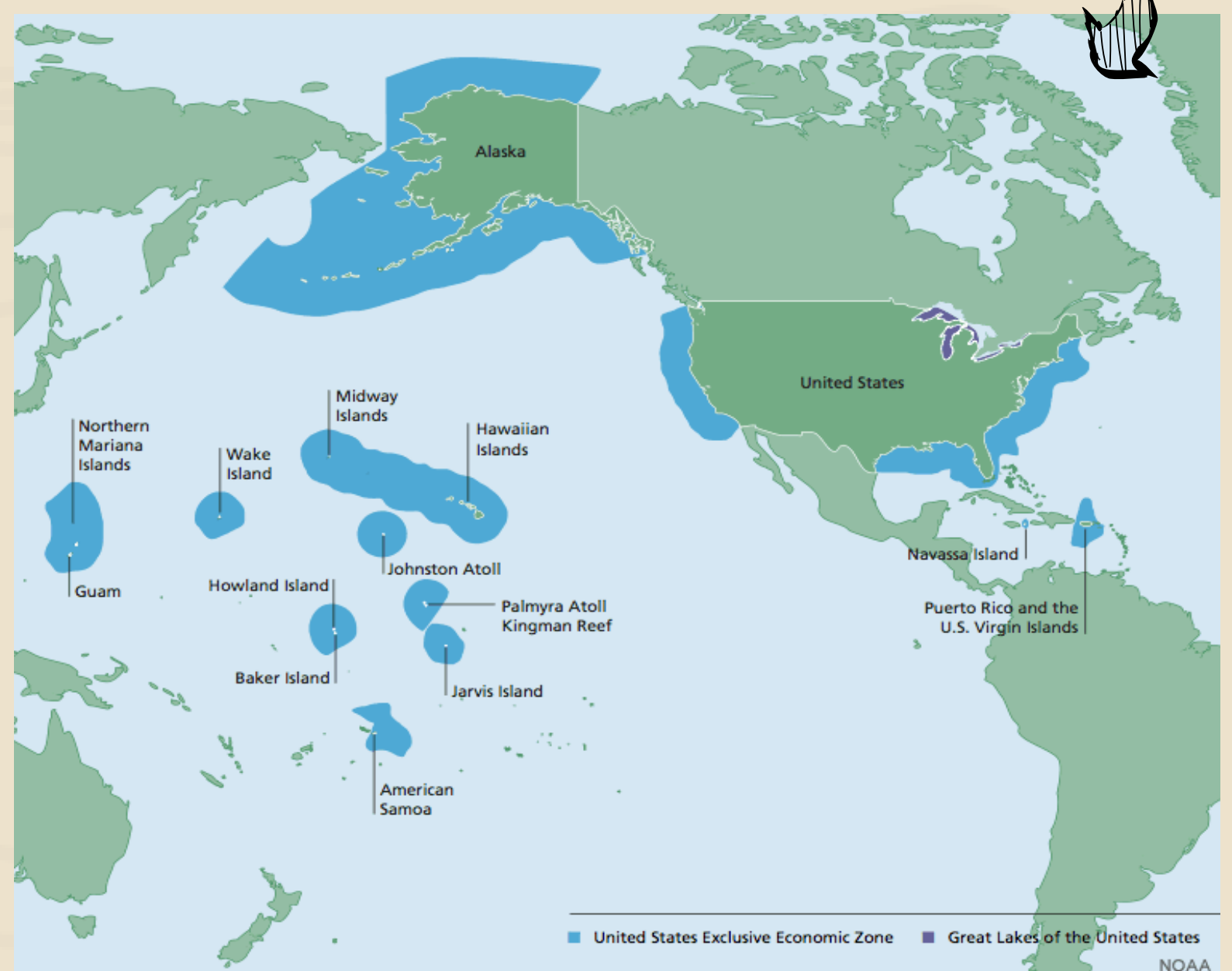
Support the self-determination of communities to build culturally congruent systems of economic, social, and spiritual supports

- Incorporate traditional healing practices
- Train local Indigenous & Tribal People as peer specialists
- Champion the ICWA & advocate for state compliance for the ICWA

Advocate for Equitable Access

- Recruit and support Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
- Critically evaluate admission policies
- Ensure visibility of Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
- Foster a space that encourages Indigenous & Tribal Peoples' perspectives and voices

U.S. Colonized Territories



Respect Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Diversity

- Native Americans (American Indians)
- Alaska Native Peoples
- Taíno
- Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians)
- CHamorus
- Peoples of Nations Affiliated With the United States Through the Compact of Free Association
- American Samoans

574 Federally Recognized Tribes in U.S.

Each with distinct cultures

Source: Weaver, H. N., Sloan, L. M., Barkdull, C., & Lee, P. (2021). CSWE statement of accountability and reconciliation for harms done to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Council on Social Work Education.

This document was created by Kaleigh Edwards, MSW/MPH Brown School Candidate in 2021 as part of her practicum at the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. Please email bcais@wustl.edu for questions.