

22nd Session of the UPR working group**Recommendations by Finland to the United States****11th May 2016**

Finland thanks the US for a thoroughly prepared national report and wishes to make the following two recommendations

- 1) Finland recommends that the US continues to pay attention to violence against Indigenous women by ensuring that all reports of violence, in particular sexual violence and rape against Indigenous women, are thoroughly investigated, with a focus to ending impunity and bringing perpetrators before justice.
- 2) Finland wishes to draw particular attention to the high rate of maternal mortality in the US, and recommends consequently that the US ensures equal access to quality maternal health and related services as an integral part of the realization of women's rights.

We are pleased to note that since the previous UPR, the United States has announced its support to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is a very welcome and important step in protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.

Indigenous women remain a particularly vulnerable group. They often face more violence, including sexual violence and rape, than the rest of the female population. The adoption of the March 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which strengthens provisions to address violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and is an important step forward.

The US administration has given special attention to gender equality and women's rights. Nevertheless, this support has not materialized in the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Finland hopes that the US explores all possible measures to finalize its ratification.

Thank you.