

MUSKOGEE (CREEK) NATION

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THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP
ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

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Madame Chairperson,

We bring you greetings from the principal Chief Bill F.Fife of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation with this message:

The crying over the "Trail of Tears" must be over in order to move forward in the fight to protect, maintain, and exercise our Nations sovereignty. We do not wish to dishonor our history and tears, but to advance in the determination to control of our own destiny.

The Muskogee (Creek) are now in a legal battle with the state of Oklahoma to maintain our Treaty rights of regulation and taxation of our own commerce on tribal land.

The added fight against our gaming rights would severely hinder our ability to provide needed programs to promote income, job training, housing, additional health care, a Head Start program, before and after school child care and educational scholarships. We feel that self determination a must to move our people from negative attitudes of discrimination

In a positive vein the Muskogee (Creek) Nation has compacted with the federal agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, for a demonstration project for self tribal governing and accountability for there year 1994.

We the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, applaud and thank all of your efforts in calling for an end to exploitation in all its forms.

This delegation represent the vast numbers of urban Indigenous people of the Southeast woodland tribes of the United States of American and most especially the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. We are humbled to be represented with you who have not succumbed to the occupation ,removal from, and desecration of your lands. We urbanites who have been deprived exposure to our tribal customs, religion, ancestry, and tradition, long for acceptance of the need for these most precious rights.

We want our youth to be able to read the true histories of their fathers and mothers, to hear the language of their grand parents, sing and dance to the music of their heritage, call on the great spirits that guided so many through a long history of time.

Our people are centered with the family. The break up of this family unit is being caused by excessive drug and alcohol abuse, the lack of decent housing, child care, elder care and health care. Apathy to education and training cause poverty and loss of dignity. The toxic shame must be changed to pride and self esteem to enrich our family environment and secure the tribal sovereignty.