

**Resolution of the NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

**RESOLUTION # 2019 – 08**

**TITLE: Support for Immigrant Communities**

**WHEREAS**, the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) works to promote issues important to the Native American community and to improve professional opportunities for Native American lawyers, we do hereby establish and submit the following resolution;

**WHEREAS**, NNABA was founded in 1973 and serves as the national association for Native American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, and NNABA strives to be a leader on social, cultural, political, and legal issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;

**WHEREAS**, borders are arbitrary constructions by countries, restricting the movement of people, including Indigenous communities who have traveled the land since time immemorial, prior to the erection of colonial border lines;

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous communities were crossed by borders and did not cross the borders;

**WHEREAS**, the borders of the United States separated Native communities and tribes when they were created and continue to separate Native communities and tribes today;

**WHEREAS**, the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and established the U.S.-Mexico border, negotiations of which excluded Native communities who lived in the land annexed to the United States and traveled throughout the annexed land;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S.-Mexico border always criminalized the movement of certain people, for example Article XI of the Treaty guaranteed provisions to directly punish Indians who sought to cross the new border;

**WHEREAS**, today, increased militarized policing, the emboldening of white supremacist ideas, and the entrenching of both by U.S. immigration policy has resulted in the escalation of a humanitarian crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border;

**WHEREAS**, people seeking to cross the southern border have been met with violence, internment, inhumane and illegal treatment, and death;

**WHEREAS**, during the Trump Administration, over 20 people have died in Migrant Detention Centers (“internment camps”), including children;

**WHEREAS**, migrants being held in these internment camps face appalling, unsanitary conditions;

**WHEREAS**, children are being separated from their families and sent to separate internment camps where they also face deplorable conditions, death, and possible unsanctioned adoption;

**WHEREAS**, migrants are forced to leave their home countries because of social, political, ecological, and climate crises, the majority of which stem from disastrous U.S. foreign policies, practices, and interference;

**WHEREAS**, policing of the southern border and border policy directly impacts and infringes on tribal sovereignty for tribes located at or near the border;

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a long history of interning minority communities, including the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII and the creation of the reservation system;

**WHEREAS**, the United States is violating its own laws by turning away asylum seekers at the border and not processing asylum requests;

**WHEREAS**, United States immigration policies have complex and unique impacts on Native communities who need to cross the borders to access their ancestral and present lands, sacred sites, and natural resources, as well as to visit and connect with their families and communities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Native American Bar Association declares its support for migrant communities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Native American Bar Association condemns the current treatment of migrants at the border;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Native American Bar Association calls for the shutdown of migrant detention centers nationwide;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Native American Bar Association calls for the immediate cease of family separation and an immediate reunion of families who have been separated at the border;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Native American Bar Association calls for the immediate need for new immigration policy in the United States;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NNABA supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

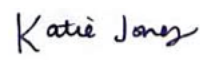
The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the National Native American Bar Association, on October 2, 2019, via online voting pursuant to § 4.9 of the Native American Bar Association Bylaws.



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Robert Saunooke, President

ATTEST:



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Katie Jones, Secretary