



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2025

25th Navajo Nation Council stands with victim advocates during Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty walked side by side with advocates and community members for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Walk.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council joined the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force, families, survivors, and advocates for a walk to raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Shaandiin Parrish, and Helena Nez Begay walked side by side with advocates and community members to elevate the voices of survivors and spotlight the critical need for resources, justice, and legislative reform.

"This walk is more than a moment, it's a movement built on the strength and resilience of our people," said Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Chairwoman of the MMDR Task Force. "We are committed to changing how domestic violence is addressed on the Navajo Nation. Through our efforts to amend Title 17 of the Navajo Nation criminal code, we will push for justice that protects our families, especially our children. This is about legal reform; it's about standing up for our relatives and ensuring their voices lead the way."

Advocates from Northern Arizona Victim Witness Services (NAVWS), the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Coalition, Utah Navajo Health System, Northern TREE House Shelter, and Fort Defiance Indian Health Services – Family Advocacy Center were present to share information on the vital work they do.

Laurelle Sheppard of NAVWS highlighted the services they provided over the last year, including shelter, translation, transportation, and crisis calls for clients. These organizations serve as lifelines to victims, offering healing through trauma-informed care, traditional practices, and 24/7 emergency support.

Vangie Shorty of the MMDR Coalition and other advocates emphasized the growing intersection between domestic violence and the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women. They called for stronger policies, long-term funding, and unified community response to stop cycles of violence.

Advocates also stressed the impact of domestic violence on children and vulnerable adults, with calls to revise the Navajo Nation's Vulnerable Adult Protection Act and expand accessibility to safe housing and services.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to advocate for stronger protections, survivor-centered justice, and sustained collaboration with victim service organizations. The MMDR Task Force's legislative work to amend Title 17 underlines their commitment to addressing systemic failures and strengthening tribal sovereignty in the pursuit of safety and justice for all Diné people.

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