



Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

P. O. Box 470 * Pawnee, OK 74058 * Phone: (918) 762-3621 * Fax: (918) 762-6446

PRESS RELEASE

Pawnee, Oklahoma, May 20, 2022 – The Pawnee Nation endorsed Indigenous human rights with the passage of Resolution #21-52 (May 12, 2022). The Resolution does two things.

First, it enacts the “Pawnee Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.” The Act calls on the United States, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado to implement Indigenous rights provisions of the United Nation’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into their laws and policies. It also requests President Biden to develop a national plan to implement UNDRIP into Federal law in consultation with Tribal Nations. In passing the Act, the Pawnee Nation joins the National Congress of American Indians and other Tribal Nations in endorsing the U.N. Declaration and promoting its implementation through a national plan of action. The Act seeks to (1) strengthen legal rights of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens; and (2) develop stronger relationships with Federal and State governments.

Second, the Resolution adopts a Pawnee Nation policy to henceforth “endorse and consult the UNDRIP standards as a moral compass that provides sound guidelines for making just laws and policies that protect the rights, wellbeing, and survival of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens.” While recognizing our government has no history of violating Indigenous rights, the policy serves the best interests of our Nation to have a strong moral compass.

President Echo-Hawk stated, “Today many nations are implementing U.N. Indigenous rights standards into their domestic laws and policies to strengthen Indigenous rights and build better relationships with Native peoples. It is fitting that we support those efforts here in the United States, because that will strengthen the rights, sovereignty, and wellbeing of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens.”

Councilwoman Cynthia Butler, who chairs the Governing Documents Committee, stated: “The Act and policy were developed in the normal law and policymaking process after extensive education, consultation, and debate. I thank everyone involved, especially our traditional Nasharo Council Chiefs for their support. This initiative promotes efforts to strengthen our Nation.” Councilwoman Dawna Hare, Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, added, “PNDRIPA will strengthen our Nation’s intergovernmental affairs, since it will put our Nation on stronger ground in working with Federal and State governments to protect the vital interests of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens.”

For Additional Information contact:

Jenifer Gover-LittleSun, Executive Director: 918-762-3621 ext. 111; jlittlesun@pawneenation.org
President Echo-Hawk: 918-762-3621 ext. 110; wechohawk@pawneenation.org

