

Operation Lady Justice Virtual Tribal Consultation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Northwest Region, August 31, 2020

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon, and welcome to the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Virtual Consultation for the BIA Northwest Region. We appreciate those of you who have joined the meeting early, and we will start the consultation in approximately five minutes to give those individuals who have registered to offer oral testimony a little more time to join. Thank you very much, and we appreciate your patience.

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Virtual Tribal Consultation for the BIA Northwest Region. I am with Leidos, a contract support for the Task Force, and we are very pleased that you are here to join us today. Before we begin today's meeting, there are a few things that I would like to go over so that you know how to participate in the event.

All attendees are muted upon entry into the event. If you have registered to offer oral testimony, please be sure to do the following steps. You should be accessing the event via Webex, which means that you would need to log in using a computer or a mobile device. When prompted, you should enter the name identical to the way it was entered when you registered. And then you have two options in which to join the audio.

You may have Webex call you or you may use a telephone and dial in. If you choose the option to use a telephone, please be sure to enter your attendee ID number. This will allow us to identify you and unmute you when it is time to offer testimony. When you are called upon, we will call your name, we will unmute the line, and we ask that you repeat your name as well as your Tribal affiliation and whether or not you are a Tribal leader or a designee. Individuals that are registered to offer testimony that are not a Tribal leader or a designee will be limited to seven minutes for testimony.

There also are a few features within Webex that I want to point out to you. If you hover over the bottom center part of your screen, you are going to see a series of radio buttons. There is a radio button towards the end that has three dots. If you click on that, you are going to see another menu of items, and in there is a media viewer. This is a feature that is available for those individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing. The event is being live captioned, so if you log in to that, you will be able to follow along. The other icon that we have at the bottom looks like a conversation bubble, and that is the chat feature. If you are having any difficulty during the event with hearing or seeing something, or you need any type of technical assistance, please use the chat feature and submit your issue to the host of today's event. If you have dialed in using a telephone and are having a difficult time hearing, please click on the "communicate" tab,

which is located at the top left of your screen, and then "audio connection" to adjust your speakers. If you are still having a difficult time, then we do suggest that you call in using a telephone. And again, you can find that information in your meeting invite.

One final reminder that everybody is muted, and when it is time for you to offer testimony, we will unmute your lines. At this time, I would like to turn the consultation over to Katie Sullivan, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, who is one of the Co-Chairs of the Task Force. Katie will begin today's consultation.

KATIE SULLIVAN: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. I am Katie Sullivan, and I am the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice. I run the Office of Justice Programs. But more importantly for today, I am Attorney General Bill Barr's designee as a Co-Chair of the Task Force known as Operation Lady Justice.

Before we begin today's consultation, I would like us all to take a moment for personal and silent prayer. I know that--I have done several of these consultations and pray every time that we are enlightened, that we are able to have a wonderful government-to-government consultation, that we are able to learn from one another, and overall, that we can help all those that have gone missing or murdered in Indian Country. Thank you.

I do want to also let everyone know that this Task Force is co-chaired. So the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice are Co-Chairs of this event, that being Attorney General William Barr and David Bernhardt. David Bernhardt has asked Assistant Secretary Tara Sweeney, she is the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, to be his designee and representative as a Co-Chair. So I enjoy very much working with the Assistant Secretary, and we have come together to work very hard to address all the issues in President Trump's Executive Order.

We have representation on the consultation today from agencies who make up the Task Force, including Department of [the] Interior, Office of Justice Programs, the FBI, the Office on Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, and the Attorney General's Native American Issues Subcommittee, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans. We are also very fortunate to have representation from the White House today through the Domestic Policy Council and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. President Trump is such a strong supporter of this Task Force and issues in Indian Country, and it is my pleasure to introduce Doug Hoelscher from the White House's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to say a few words. Doug?

DOUG HOELSCHER: Thank you very much, Katie. Appreciate the opportunity to join Tribal leaders and champions for the Native American community across the Northwest today. And want to just share a few thoughts, and thank you all for devoting your time and being with us for this important discussion as we aim to learn from each of you.

Most of the afternoon the floor will be yours, as we are, again, here to listen and learn from all of you speaking on behalf of your communities and your personal experiences. We will take those experiences and suggestions into account as we continue to build out the Federal Government's efforts to address the issue of missing and murdered Native Americans, especially women and girls. First, I am going to offer just a word of context, or some background, for what came before this series of virtual consultations.

In May of 2019, President Trump proclaimed May Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Awareness Day, becoming the first president ever to do so, saying that "The end of the violence that disproportionately affects American Indian and Alaska Native communities is imperative." Unquote. That order gave us our marching orders. We on the President's Team spent the next few months thinking through and talking with Tribal communities about how to develop a program of Federal Government actions on this issue set. And just last fall before Thanksgiving, the President hosted an Oval Office signing ceremony with Tribal leaders for an Executive Order establishing Operation Lady Justice, an interagency Task Force charged with developing an aggressive government-wide strategy to address the crisis of missing and murdered persons in Native American communities.

This session today is part of our implementation of that order. The President and his team are committed to following up on the Executive Order with real action and concrete progress, and over the last few--last month, you have seen action on this front, with the establishment of Operation Lady Justice offices to focus on coordination in cold cases. And so that is a very exciting development in the last month. But before that, the Department of Justice moved out to move resources to Indian Country to help tackle this challenge as well. So we want to continue to learn from each of you as we refine our policies, and our approach, and our protocols, but we are already taking action where there is consensus and where there is a certain identified need. So we will keep doing that as well.

We wish we could be doing these in person, but obviously, COVID-19 has presented certain challenges for doing that. And so we appreciate your patience and your participation in this remote forum. Again, we are grateful to our partners at the Department of Justice and Department of [the] Interior and HHS and other entities who have worked really hard to keep the lines of communication open and keep moving

forward despite unexpected challenges the year has taken. And again, we are grateful for your presence today for this virtual consultation. You have the commitment of the White House, the President, and the entire team here that we will continue to drive progress with our agency partners to make a difference on this long overlooked issue. And that action will be informed by what we hear from you today. Again, I look forward to your perspective, and thank you for your time. Back to you, Katie.

KATIE SULLIVAN: Thank you, Doug. Thank you so much. To reiterate some of what Doug was just talking about, as you guys know from the President's Executive Order that created this Task Force, we must consult with Tribes on the scope and nature of the issues regarding missing or murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. We did have a series of in-person consultations and listening sessions that were set from February through July across the country. We were able to host five in-person listening sessions in February and in early March. And then the current health crisis hit and, we suspended our activity because everyone's focus was obviously very importantly elsewhere. We have held an additional four virtual listening sessions at the end of May and beginning of June.

And given the current situation, after a lot of discussions with Tribes and internally, we decided to hold 12 virtual Tribal consultations over this next month, and they have been organized by the Bureau of the Indian Affairs regions. The "Dear Tribal Leader" letter and Framing Paper were distributed on July 17 and again on August 11. In addition, this series of virtual consultations have been widely publicized across the country. At this juncture, I am going to turn it back over to Michelle, and we really look forward to hearing everything that you have to say from our Tribal leaders. Thank you so much.

Oh, just--the consultation questions, just so you know, are organized across four areas. It is the scope of the two problems of missing or murdered, the challenges that your particular community faced around these issues, what solutions or resources do you have or are needed, and what specific recommendations do you have to address or curtail the incidences of missing persons or murdered cases within American Indian and Alaska Native communities. And you can see that up on--if you are able to see this on a computer, you can see all of that up on your screen right now. So thank you very much. And I turn it over to Michelle.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Hello, everybody. We are going to have to unmute quite a few lines in order to open it up for a couple of the callers that we are unable to identify. So I am going to ask you for your patience because it is going to take a little while. I am going to call out your name. If you are on the line at that time, please say--repeat your name, and you can state your Tribal affiliation, whether or not you are a Tribal leader or

a designee. And then as a reminder, anyone not registered as a Tribal leader will be limited to seven minutes for testimony.

So the first person right now that we are looking for is Michelle Demmert. Michelle Demmert. If you are on the call, please state your name. All right, the next person that we are looking for is Karen Condon. Karen. Your lines--the lines have been unmuted, so if you are on the call, please go ahead. State your name, your Tribal affiliation, and then begin your testimony. All right, we are going to--go ahead and mute those lines back. I will call on those individuals again a little later.

Right now we are, though, going to move forward with Carolyn DeFord. So, Carolyn, if you would give us a second, we will unmute your line. You can then--we have to mute all the other lines, and then we are going to go ahead and unmute your line. Give us a--give us a few minutes, and then you can state your name, whether you are a Tribal leader or designee, as well as your Tribal affiliation, and then you can begin testimony. I will give you a heads-up as soon as your line is unmuted. All right, Carolyn, you can go ahead.

CAROLYN DEFORD: Thank you. My name is Carolyn DeFord. I am a member of the Puyallup Tribe. I am also a descendant of the Nisqually and Cowlitz Tribes in Coast Salish Territory in Washington State. I work for the Puyallup Tribe Community Domestic Violence Advocacy Program as a Human Trafficking Project Coordinator and an MMIP Advocate. I am speaking as a family member, a community member, and a grassroots organizer for missing and murdered indigenous people today. I am not representing my Tribe, I am representing my community.

My mother, Leona LeClair Kinsey, went missing 20 years ago: October 25, 1999. She went to the grocery store and never returned. And it has been a long journey of trying to understand all of the things that could have done better and should have done, and that, you know, I watch too much TV and that is why these things do not work that way. But I find that hard to believe because if she had been somebody of status, you know, the troops would have been called out to find her. And that is really a hurtful topic for a lot of our families who--our loved ones are going missing because they are vulnerable and because--our women and girls because they are targeted and because those people who are perpetrators out there know those gaps in our systems. And to know that those gaps are systemic and that they are not filled, they are not being filled and there is nothing, you know, solid being done to correct these issues has really been a hard thing for me to wrap my mind around. And so for that, I just want to say thank you to the Task Force and to everybody who is dedicating their time today and throughout this whole journey and this process to help find our loved ones, for the pursuit of justice for those

who are taken from us too soon, and to everybody who is committed to hearing our stories and our testimonies and the obligation that you carry just by taking the time to hear us. This comes with it a heavy burden: to hear our stories, and carry that load, and do what is within your power to remedy these issues. So thank you, and my prayers are with you all that you have the heart condition to do the good work, the good hard work that needs to be done that we are in a position to do.

Um. When it comes to our families that go missing, when we get a missing person's report, time is of the essence, and you are in panic mode. If you have ever lost a child in the grocery store and had your heart flip in a matter of seconds, imagine that feeling not going away. It does not go away, and you cannot sleep, and you cannot eat, and you have to be in a thousand places and searching in a hundred thousand different ways. And you want everybody to be there doing it for you, and there is really nobody to do that.

When I made my missing person's report for my mother, and for all the families that I have supported, they simply get a case number and get told to call us if you hear something. If there is no sign of foul play, like there is no immediate evidence of harm, that is all you get. "Call us if you hear something." I get more information when I open a pre-paid debit card at Walmart or when I, you know--you get more information for daily tasks, let alone when somebody goes missing. And this is quite possibly the most horrific experience a family can endure.

Thankfully, most of those missing cases, the loved one is returned home or makes contact, but for the percentage of us that it does not, it changes your life. It literally knocks the wind out of you and brings you to your knees. I remember 20 years ago the day I found out my mom was gone like it was yesterday. And I can be brought back to that helplessness in just recalling the situation. And for so many of our families, it is the same way.

On the Puyallup Reservation, just last week, we found the remains of one of our Tribal members who went missing on August 1. He was gone for a couple of days. It was not like him. He is a close-knit community member, checked on his elders, worked in the elders' facility. He was an uncle and a fisherman, and he missed several significant family milestones, and family realized something just was not right. And he was found a month later in a parking lot.

One of the things that we experienced in that was that since there was no immediate sign of foul play other than that everything was uncharacteristic, just because there was no sign of murder, the FBI would not get involved or could not get involved. And so our

local Tribal law enforcement, who do not have a whole lot of resources or training or funding at their disposal to be able to look for or, you know, provide an adequate search and investigation, were kind of--they were doing everything they could and really relied on the community to be those boots on the ground.

We need to be able to break down those barriers so that our law enforcement agencies can do their jobs. It should not take--it should not take a week to get a bench warrant to get phone records, or to get a bench warrant to try and track him down or, you know, to search his home or anything to see if there are any other signs of indicators of where he could be, or to check on his well-being. We wasted a lot of time having to do that simply because we are a Tribal government and that there were no signs of foul play. God forbid he was murdered, and the FBI would finally get involved. Like, you want them to get involved, but you do not want the signs of foul play. It is like a would you rather that families should never have to play when their hearts are on the line like that. It is cruel, and it wastes precious time.

Local and Tribal law enforcement should have the funding for rewards, and searches, and supports for the family at their disposal. If your loved one is missing and you need to search for them, you have to take time off work. And in this environment and this economic, in troubling times right now, nobody can afford to take time off work. There is somebody there to replace you at the blink of an eye. So what do you do? Do you provide for your family, or do you go find your loved one? And simply for him, he was in a parking lot for a month. And we searched high and low, but this parking lot was in the neighboring county, and we did not--we had not gone that far yet. But had we been able to track his phone sooner, maybe we would have. There are just a lot of things in that recent, recent situation that should have and could have been avoided.

The families need supports to help maintain their income, to help provide funding for gas and for posters. And our law enforcement should be able to support the families in that and in offering up a reward to help bring information forward and to fund searches, and search dogs, and search and rescue teams. But we do not have it. We do not have it. And trying to tell a family member, when you are looking at everything that has happened, that law enforcement is really doing everything that they can, and it is just straight not enough, is heartbreaking. To look at little children, and look in their faces when they have not slept, and they are having gruesome thoughts about their--about their uncle or their grandpa, about what happened. Babies should not have to--should not have to think about those things and feel like more can be done. And there is just us, you know. There is just us to do it. And that is where we count on the systems, and our law enforcement, and the government, and the treaty protections that should be in place to help keep our people and our community safe.

We need accountability. We need accountability for law enforcement agencies to conduct thorough searches and thorough investigations and keep families--simply keep them up to date as to what they are doing so that they are not feeling helpless, so that they are not feeling like their case took the back burner, that their loved one was not as important as the next one. We need prosecution of perpetrators who are committing violent crimes, who are committing domestic violence, and trafficking, and sexual assaults, and child abuse and neglect. We need prosecution of perpetrators in Indian Country. And we know the statistics on those, and how many get prosecuted, and how many get dropped. We definitely need long-term care for the families to keep--to fill that gap, to help the families fill the gap and heal.

Often grandparents are taking custody of children, and they have not had the chance to mourn their--mourn their children yet before they are taking custody of their grandchildren. They are taking custody of three grandchildren and driving a small vehicle, and now all of a sudden they have to upgrade to a minivan. And they need a bigger home, and they need to put more food on the table. And now they need computers and laptops for school. And they need, you know, school clothes and immunization records, and the legal stuff that comes into place for the grandparents to be entitled to take care of those children. There are just a lot of things that are overlooked in how we support the families and reduce barriers for them while they are going through this horrible, horrible journey.

We need an Oliphant fix, and we need the money to be able to, and we need the funding and the resources and support from the government to be able to that. But we should be able to have jurisdiction over anybody who commits a crime in our territory, not that we are stuck twiddling our thumbs waiting for the prosecutors to drop the case. There is no justice in that. We need to reduce the barriers between the IRS, and DSHS, and DCFS, and all of those service providers that are providing government assistance and government refunds.

If we have a loved one missing, and we can't track that they are, in some way where their privacy is still protected, that they are alive and well or that they are in harm's way or that their identity has been stolen, we are missing a gap right there. We had a loved one who was missing out of Washington State for almost 14 years and collecting a tax return. And she was dealing with some experience--you know, some things on her own, but after 14 years, she was finally connected with family because of--because of our Tribal liaison in Washington State, which was a result of our House Bill 2951 and her diligent work to support families and reach out outside of her initial jurisdiction and just use the resources that were available to her, we were able to reconnect this family. But had we not had these gaps in the IRS, and DSHS, and DCFS to see that she was even

getting benefits and alive, it could have been done a whole lot sooner. And I--

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Carolyn?

CAROLYN DEFORD: Yes?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I am going to have to ask you to please--to wrap up your testimony. Speakers are limited to seven minutes.

CAROLYN DEFORD: In closing, I just want to say thank you again. You have this obligation to carry on these stories, and do your due diligence, and everything within your power to bring justice to our missing and bring them home and to our lost. My mother's name is Leona LeClair Kinsey. She has been gone since October 1999. Our Tribal member that went missing last month, his name is Arron Garcia, and his service is tomorrow. No family should have to endure this. So thank you for your time and your commitment, and I appreciate the Task Force providing this opportunity to hear our testimonies today. Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Thank you, Carolyn. I appreciate that. Our next speaker is going to be Charlene Abrasam--excuse me, Abrahamson. We will unmute you. Please give us a second. You can begin your testimony. Please state your name as well as your Tribal affiliation.

CHARLENE ABRAHAMSON: Good morning. At least here it is still morning. This is Charlene Abrahamson, and I am the Family Services Director for the Squaxin Island Tribe. And I am a member of the Spokane Tribe, both in Washington State. I believe I accidentally put in something as far as testimony, but what I do want to say is something I shared in some of our other meetings.

And I am glad to hear seven minutes today. The first meeting I was on was three minutes. And it was really heartbreaking for me to just hear people suddenly get cut off who were sharing really heartbreaking things that are hard to share and often retraumatizing. And when they are sharing these things, it is a gift to all of us that they put themselves through that to share the hard things. And I would say that every Tribal person has this experience. That is how widespread it is and how important this work is. Myself included.

And my cousin has never been found, and we have not had the ability to say goodbye. And her great uncle that was his buddy, they went everywhere together. And he was a World War II vet, and every time he went to any reunions or anything from his Navy

days, when he served overseas, she went with him. And one of my biggest regrets is that he passed away last year without ever knowing what happened. And being able to find out where our people are, and also work on prevention, does equate to resources and dollars. And often what we have found with Tribes in COVID is that we do have to serve our people and continue to provide services that maybe the state and Federal Government also do for other people with tax dollars. And often we do not have the same tax dollars. And when it is thought that Tribes have all of these different resources that should be taken into consideration as well as the collaborations that it is more meaningful, as the previous speaker attested to, from the FBI as well as our local jurisdictions. And that is the end of my comments, and thank you for hearing me today.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Thank you very much. We are going to move to Asa Washines. Asa, give us a second, we will unmute your line, and then you can state your name as well as your Tribal affiliation. And I will give you a heads up when you are unmuted. One second, please. Okay, you may begin.

Asa, if you have muted your own telephone or your computer headset, you will have to unmute it. Sorry. We are going to unmute you again. Okay, you are unmuted. You can go ahead and begin. If you are speaking on a telephone, you have your actual telephone muted, you will need to unmute that. If you are speaking on a computer, you would need to make sure that your headset is adjusted so that you can be heard as well as hear what we are saying. So. I think what we are going to do--Asa, if you would not mind sending a message in chat, and let us know how you are dialing in and what the nature of your problem might be, we can come back to you. In the meantime, what we are going to do is we are going to unmute some of the lines that are identified only as "caller" and see if we have anybody else that has joined us that has registered to offer testimony.

All right, so again, we do have quite a few individuals that have joined the call just as a caller, so we are unable to tell who they are. Please give us a moment while we go through, and we unmute each of these individuals. And then we will ask them. And we will call out the names. And if your name is called, you can go ahead and you can start offering your testimony. We just have a couple more lines that we need to unmute. Just please be patient. I apologize for the delay.

All right, we are going to actually start. We are going to start back where we did in the beginning with Michelle Demmert. So, Michelle, if you are on the call, and you would like to offer testimony, you may do so. Michelle Demmert. All right, we will move on to Carol Condon. Carol, if you are on the call, please state your name and your Tribal affiliation, and you can begin your testimony.

All right, the next individual that has registered to offer testimony is Bridget Ray. Bridget, if you are on the call, we have unmuted the lines and you can go ahead and state your name, your Tribal affiliation, and begin your testimony. Bridget Ray. Are you on the phone? Okay.

The last person that has registered to offer testimony is Patricia Whitefoot. Patricia, if you are on the call, please state your name, your Tribal affiliation, and then you may begin offering your testimony. One last try. Patricia Whitefoot, are you on the call?

All right, we are going to go back to Asa. My understanding is that they called back in on a telephone. So, Asa, we are going to unmute your line. Give us one second, and then you can go ahead, and you can start offering your testimony. I will let you know when your line has been unmuted. Please state your Tribal affiliation. And then just as a reminder, your testimony will be limited to seven minutes. Asa, your line has been unmuted, you may begin.

ASA WASHINES: Okay, thank you. Again, technical difficulties. Good morning. My name is Asa Washines. I am a descendent of the Yakama Nation. I am currently the Tribal Liaison to the Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson. I came on in this role since June. And part of my responsibilities will be working and coordinating the MMIW legislation that was passed in Washington state--we had two legislations that was passed recently. And so our agency, the Attorney General's office, will be taking an administrative role in moving forward. And so I am here to listen, to charge as well, and really work with the Tribal liaison at the Washington State Patrol, work with her, and really start moving on this issue that is so dear to our hearts. We know that we have a lot of relatives that are missing. And then so...moving forward, it would be great to--you know, we do have a State Tribal Liaison at the State Patrol. And then it would be good to be start working with the Feds on the federal level.

There are a lot of things that I think our office can identify on how we can strengthen those ties through policy, through administrative orders. And so once we get those identified and really working through our state, through the Tribes, and through the federal level to get these addressed. And so this has been ongoing for some time now, but really finally moving in a collaborative direction. I know there has been a lot of reporting been done already by the State Patrol, the Tribal liaison, with what she is doing in Washington state. And so now it is truly trying to like make sure we get all the pieces to come together.

And so, you know, I'm here on behalf of the Tribes, on behalf of the Attorney General

Bob Ferguson, to really make sure, you know, I can bridge those gaps moving forward. And I really appreciate, you know, that collaborative working relationship with the federal agencies, whether it is the FBI or the U.S. Attorney General's office, the BIA. And then so there is--we have all the resources, we just need to pull them together. And so, hopefully, I can help and then be that conduit for everyone to come together. And so there are lots of things going on, but, you know, we need to overcome these challenges and really find a solution, some resources, for our Tribal community. And that concludes my remarks. So if there is someone I can have a point of contact with moving forward, I would really appreciate that, coming from the Attorney General's office. Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Thank you very much. We are going to try running through these names one last time. It looks like one new person joined. We will unmute that one individual line, and I am going to call the names out. If that happens to be you, please you will be able to begin your testimony. Michelle Demmert, are you on the line? Michelle? Karen Condon? Bridget Ray? And Patricia Whitefoot? All right, that--appears that none of the other individuals that have registered to offer testimony are actively on the call, and we have gone through the individuals that are on the call.

TARA SWEENEY: Michelle?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Yes. This is Mary Jo.

TARA SWEENEY: Oh, hi, Mary Jo. It is Tara Sweeney. I just received a message from Michelle Demmert, and she cannot testify today. She was called away for a Tribal council meeting. So she may register at t another time. Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right, thank you so much, Tara. I appreciate that. So that will--we would be finished then with all individuals that are on the call to offer testimony.

KATIE SULLIVAN: Thank you so much. And thank you, Assistant Secretary, for letting us know about Judge Demmert. That would be great if she can sign up and give her testimony at another time, at another consultation. And thank you, everybody, who was on this call and everyone who did provide us with testimony today.

As you can see on your screen, Operation Lady Justice does have a website and an email address. I know the last gentleman who testified did request a contact at the Department of Justice. You can email operationladyjustice@usdoj.gov. If you wish to receive updates from Operation Lady Justice, please subscribe to the website. And also, everyone on the call, please be aware that we are receiving written comments through September 30, 2020, and they can be sent directly to the Operation Lady

Justice website. Thank you all very much. Thank you for participating, and have a wonderful day. Thank you.

JEANNIE HOVLAND: Operator, this is Jeannie Hovland, Administration for Native Americans, can I offer a few words? Operator?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I am sorry. That is fine. I did not realize I had myself muted. Go right ahead, Jeannie.

JEANNIE HOVLAND: All right, thank you to Carolyn and Charlene for sharing today. Our hearts go out to you. I cannot imagine the pain that you have gone through and continue to go through. And, Asa, thank you for the work that you will be doing in your new position. Congratulations. And on behalf of the Task Force, we look forward to working with you. And again, we thank you, everybody, for taking the time to share with us. Thank you, Operator.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: You are welcome.