June 10, 2014

Brian Patterson  
President  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Dear Brian Patterson:

**We need your help.** On September 22-23, 2014, the United Nations will hold the first ever World Conference on Indigenous Peoples at its headquarters in New York City. The UN, through its General Assembly of 193 member countries, will adopt critical recommendations on indigenous rights and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**The World Conference offers an unprecedented opportunity to raise global awareness and urge the United Nations and international community to combat violence against indigenous women not only in the United States, but worldwide.** Though violence against women is a pervasive human rights issue, the situation for indigenous women is worse. Millions of indigenous women all around the world are suffering disproportionately heightened and multiple forms of discrimination and violence not only because they are women, but also because they are members of indigenous communities.

On September 21, 2014, the day before the World Conference, the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (“NIWRC”) and the Indian Law Resource Center (“ILRC”), in partnership with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), will present a staged reading of *Sliver of a Full Moon*. This breathtakingly powerful new play documents the grassroots movement that led to the historic reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) in 2013—an affirmative step by the United States towards restoring safety to Native women and sovereignty to Indian tribes to address these crimes.

*Sliver of a Full Moon is a portrayal of resistance and celebration.* Although thousands contributed to this victory, *Sliver of a Full Moon* follows the story of five Native women who took a stand and one Native man, Congressman Tom Cole, who stood with them to win this victory. The cast features three courageous Native women who stepped forward to publicly share their stories of abuse by non-Indians and counter staunch opponents to the tribal provisions—Diane Millich (Southern
Ute), Lisa Brunner (White Earth Ojibwe), and Billie Jo Rich (Eastern Band Cherokee). Professional actors will join them to portray Congressman Tom Cole, Eastern Band Cherokee Councilwoman Terri Henry, Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians Traditional Legislative Counsel Juana Majel Dixon, and Tulalip Tribe’s Vice-Chairwoman Deborah Parker. And, for the first time ever, *Sliver of a Full Moon* will feature a compelling monologue from the voices of long time Alaska Native women’s advocates, leaders, and survivors, for whom change is long overdue.

Following successful performances at the National Congress of American Indians in October 2013 and March 2014, we will present *Sliver of a Full Moon* at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City, at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 2014. To do so, we must raise the funds to cover the costs of the performance, including actors’ fees and travel costs. We are also raising money to bring at least four Native women from Alaska to New York City to share their stories with the world and compel leaders and policymakers to take actions to increase the safety of indigenous women.

**We hope that you will join us in sharing our story with the international community and urging the UN to address safety for indigenous women everywhere.**

We are asking you to please contribute in support of this event. We simply cannot present *Sliver of a Full Moon* on September 21 without your strong financial support. Contributing tribes will receive priority seating at the performance, as well as special recognition in our press release and the program.

Please help recognize, strengthen, and honor the growing global movement to end this human rights crisis. Together we are stronger and indigenous women will be safer. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have, and we look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Wado,

Mary Kathryn Nagle
Playwright
Citizen, Cherokee Nation

Lucy Simpson
Executive Director,
National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center

Robert T. Coulter
Executive Director,
Indian Law Resource Center

Checks should be made out to “NIWRC” and sent to: PO Box 99, Lame Deer, MT 59043. Please specify in an accompanying letter that the check is for “SFM”.