



## Justice for Our Children: Healing for Our Communities For Remembrance and Action

**A Week of Prayer and Action: September 30 to October 6**

**Create Awareness** by holding an event to remember those tribal children who were taken from their families and placed in boarding schools. In particular, we remember those who died while at the schools, and whose bodies were buried far from their homes. We remember that another death happened, a spiritual death, for many children who had their culture and spirituality taken from them.

**September 30** This is the National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools [boardingschoolhealing.org](http://boardingschoolhealing.org). The Boarding School Healing Project also designated **October 6** as a Day of Remembrance since that day in 1879, was the day that General Richard Pratt took children from so many First Nations and opened the boarding school in Carlisle, PA. We recommend a week of Prayer and Action.

### Make a Plan for Your Event:

- **Produce and Distribute the “Justice for Our Children: Healing for Our Communities” 5x7 cards.** You have permission from the **Native American International Caucus** and the artist to print and distribute. Feel free to be creative with the image by Paige. You can make t-shirts, posters, flags or whatever! You can use your local printer to make these.
- **Choose a location** such as your Church Conference Center, Government Capital building, a busy city corner, on a church lawn, a park. Choose somewhere that it is visible to the public. Be sure to check if you need a permit.
- **Invite people** who will stand in solidarity with you. Perhaps there is a Native American drum group or a singer and dancers who can be with you. Consider someone who can speak briefly on the purpose of the meeting. Invite a spiritual leader or pastor or a singer to say/sing a prayer
- **Everyone wears ORANGE.** It’s a strong color to draw attention to the event and to us at the NAIC it symbolizes the sun as it sets and rises. We are praying that the sun has not completely set on this concern, but new hope comes when we remember. You could make ribbon shirts/skirts.
- **Collect children’s shoes or moccasins.** The more tattered the better. Place a circle of shoes on the earth near your prayer station or on your church steps. Empty shoes represent children who never came home.
- **Make little orange birds** to bring to the event (see pattern) out of felt. These can be hung on a tree or on a wooden stand or be worn as pins. The birds represent the spirits of children as they take flight. Gather all the birds together and photograph them. (Please send photos of your gathering and of the birds to [Ragghirain@gmail.com](mailto:Ragghirain@gmail.com) with permission for us to share these in future press releases and promotions of this cause)
- **Bring all the birds to your worship** so that everyone who gathers can have a special time of prayer.
- **Invite the local news media** to come to your event.



**RESOURCES:** Find the 5X7 card, Little Bird Pattern, and more on facebook: Justice for our Children Healing for our Communities.

## WHAT TO DO NOW

1. **Contact your bishop and conference director. Let them know that you want to know where the Methodist Boarding Schools were and that any children's remains have been properly returned to their families/tribes.**
2. **Begin collecting tattered children's shoes and moccasins for your demonstration of prayer and Solidarity**
3. **Host a study at your church on Native American history.**

The book, [Giving Our Hearts Away](#) by Thom Fasset is an excellent resource.

Or you could host a Native History Learning Experience:

[Meet TRR Faciliator Suanne Ware-Diaz – Friends Peace Teams](#)

4. Host a movie or film time at your church : Here are some options

[Sec. Haaland on healing from the indoctrination, dehumanization at Indian boarding schools | PBS NewsHour 10min](#)

[Utah History | Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools | PBS \(56 minutes\)](#)

**Buried Truths: America's Indigenous Boarding Schools** <https://youtu.be/AY8WVxOAUNQ>

**Unseen Tears: The Native American Boarding School Experience** <https://youtu.be/ioAzggmes8c>