



Resolution #2022-01

STATEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES ACT AND ASSOCIATED EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the Native Justice Coalition (NJC) is a regional Native American led non-profit based in Michigan, Anishinaabe Nation, Anishinaabe Aki, with a coalition representing 35 community partnerships across the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, our organization serves as a platform for healing, social, and racial justice by and for Native American people; and, our staff, board of directors, and elders council represent Great Lakes Native American and First Nations communities; and,

WHEREAS, our annual conference and programming addresses intergenerational, generational, and historical trauma from boarding schools; and we work directly with boarding school survivors, to provide a safe and supportive space to share their voices, stories, as well as begin their healing process; and,

WHEREAS, the NJC recognizes the need to address genocidal policies directly through community based work, community outreach, coalition building, advocacy, empowerment, healing initiatives for the individual, family, and greater community that we serve; and,

WHEREAS, assimilation processes against Native Americans, such as the Indian Boarding School Policies, were adopted by the United States Government to strip American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children of their Indigenous identities, beliefs, and languages to assimilate them into non-Native culture through federally funded and controlled Christian-run schools, which had the intent and, in many cases, the effect, of termination, with dire and intentional consequences on the cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in any of 460 Bureau of Indian Affairs-operated schools, including at least 367 known Indian boarding schools, often church-run, at which assimilation and “civilization” practices were inflicted on those children as part of the assimilation efforts of the Federal Government, advancing eradication of Indigenous peoples in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Indian Boarding School policy’s deliberate intention was the separation of Native American children from their families, cultures, and Tribal communities through removal; and

