

**Title:** Native American Women's Fight for Justice

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American Indians faced forced assimilation and mistreatment of rights throughout our nation's history. In the 1980s the American Indian Movement (AIM) turned the attention of Indian people back to their traditional cultural understanding. Unlike other civil rights groups AIM focused on the empowerment of the tribe rather than an individual. Key to all traditional Native sociology was the role of women. Women in AIM brought attention to the issues Native American women were facing at the time. They spoke out about sexism in the movement, how the male leaders of large tribes resisted women in leadership, forced sterilization, domestic abuse and Native family issues. Native women addressed these issues in multiple ways. In response to the sexism they faced by male leaders they founded the Women of All Red Nations (WARN) in 1974. They confronted the men and tried to change their attitudes by saying sexism was a result of assimilation and ignoring Indian traditions. They also reminded them that men and women were all equal in the movement and sought leadership positions in their tribes. They addressed the issue of sterilization abuse in 1978 by making it one of the themes of the Longest Walk Across America. Finally, the issue of family was addressed through complaints made to the Department of Indian Affairs.

## Works Cited

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