

New Research Institution to Counteract Violence Against Indigenous Women

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On January 18, 2019, local indigenous communities and their allies came together at the University of California Berkeley to celebrate the launch of the Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI), a new home for research that aims to address and counteract violent crimes against indigenous peoples.

SBI will work alongside indigenous organizers and scholars, community establishments, and tribal nations to track violence against indigenous communities. Its goal is to empower communities to fight ongoing violence by improving services for survivors of violence and providing a deeper understanding of sexual and gender violence against indigenous people. Funded by Seventh Generation, SBI has offices in Oakland and Humboldt County.

The main aims of the SBI, as stated on its website, are:

- Conducting, supporting, and mobilizing culturally-informed and community-engaged research on gender and sexual violence against indigenous people
- Uplifting indigenous researchers, knowledge keepers, and data visualists in their work to research and disseminate data on gender and sexual violence against indigenous people
- Empowering indigenous communities and nations to continue their work to end gender and sexual violence against indigenous people through data-driven partnerships that enhance research efforts, develop best practices, and transform data into action to protect and heal their peoples

More information about the Sovereign Bodies Institute can be found on their webpage.