

# Indigenous Leaders Call for Healing from the Traumas of Indian Boarding Schools

*The Boarding Schools in Canada and the USA have wounded the minds, bodies, and spirits of students, their families and communities.*

ALPINE, UTAH, UNITED STATES, March 18, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- March 24, 2022—The [Anti-Racism Initiative](#) of the [G20 Interfaith Forum](#) (IF20), the world's leading organization focused on the intersection of faith and policy, is gathering representatives from the United States and Canada's indigenous communities to discuss the lasting traumas of Indian residential school programs, their effect on indigenous communities today, and institutional racism in education at an upcoming webinar.



Ja:no's Bowen of the Seneca Nation, who will moderate the webinar, wrote the following statement in behalf of the IF20 Anti-Racism Initiative:

“

The Boarding Schools in Canada and the USA have wounded the minds, bodies, and spirits of students, and communities. The experience was a man-made problem, therefore we can fix it by working together”

*Gerry Oleman of the St'at'imc Nation*

“The G20 Interfaith Forum 2021 Working Group on Education recommended that institutions of learning ‘safeguard healing and well-being as a cornerstone of education.’ Nevertheless, in order to do so, countries such as the United States and Canada must first come to terms with their blatant disregard for the health and safety of generations of Indigenous children entrusted to their residential schools. While most Indian boarding schools have closed their doors, the effect of years of collective trauma linger in indigenous households throughout the United States and Canada, whose governments worked

meticulously for over 50 years to ‘kill the Indian, and save the man.’”

Gerry Oleman of the St'at'imc Nation, who will speak at the webinar, said that unless spaces for

healing are intentionally created, affected Indigenous communities will never recover:

“The Boarding Schools in Canada and the USA have wounded the minds, bodies, and spirits of students, their families and communities,” Oleman said. “This experience has left them in the place of living a miserable life. We must create healing spaces for them, or they will die a miserable death. The boarding school experience was a man-made problem, therefore we can fix it by working together.”

Hohahi:s-Leroy Hill, member of the Cayuga Nation and Bear Clan, said the culture of Indigenous People, sabotaged by residential schools, is the key to their survival and wellbeing:

“We Indigenous People are all survivors of an orchestrated attempt to erase us from Mother Earth,” Hill said. “Throughout our existence, Our Creator provided all that we need to be healthy and content. Indigenous Populations are now in a sincere battle to survive, revitalize, and reconnect with our true identity. Our health and strengths exist in our traditional teachings, languages, and spiritual connections that were sabotaged in the recent past.”

The virtual meeting will take place on March 24, 2022 at 2 pm EDT, and will aim to accomplish three purposes:

1. Discuss the continued struggle of Indigenous Peoples with institutional racism embedded in the US and Canada’s educational systems.
2. Discuss paths forward to repair relations between government-sanctioned educational institutions and Indigenous populations living within their scope.
3. Discuss what religious institutions can do to develop educational institutions that embrace healing and wellbeing rooted in faith while still demonstrating respect for Indigenous cultures and spiritual traditions.

Register for the free webinar at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iREvzhCTQAewm4Cn0wjTLg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iREvzhCTQAewm4Cn0wjTLg)

Speakers will include:

- Jā:no’s Janine Bowen – Citizen of the Seneca Nation; Director of the Seneca Language Department, Allegany Territory
- Dr. Lori Quigley – Citizen of the Seneca Nation; Member of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education
- Hohahi:s-Leroy “Jock” Hill – Member of the Cayuga Nation and Bear Clan; Professor of Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Advisor
- Gerry Oleman – Citizen of the St’at’imc Nation of Tsəl’alh (Shalalth B.C.); Change agent for First Nations communities
- Dr. Denise Lajimodiere – Citizen of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians; Artist, Poet, and Retired Associate Professor of Educational Leadership

## About the G20 Process

The Group of Twenty, or G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, bringing together the leaders of Earth's most prosperous economies. Collectively, G20 members represent around 80 percent of the world's economic output, two-thirds of the global population and three-quarters of international trade. Throughout the year, representatives from G20 countries gather to discuss financial and socioeconomic issues as well as broader humanitarian issues targeted by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

## About the G20 Interfaith Forum

The G20 Interfaith Forum seeks global solutions by collaborating with religious thought leaders and political representatives to help shape the overall G20 agenda. It draws on the vital roles that religious institutions and beliefs play in world affairs, reflecting a rich diversity of institutions, ideas, and values. Through its extensive network of networks, it helps prioritize key global policy goals and point toward practical means of implementation at every level of society.

For more information, please visit [www.g20interfaith.org](http://www.g20interfaith.org).

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