

SISTERHOOD SPEAKS OUT

Sandy Sayer

I am taking this opportunity to voice out my opinions. Witnessing issues in a perspective which consists solely of emotional and personal knowledge spoken from all of my heart.

First of all I do not condemn or discriminate against any specific individual, groups or Task forces for that matter. This is my opinion all in one and one in all. What you are about to read is one Native woman taking the time to share what has been sealed up and silenced ... now is the time to open that up.

While attempting to write on "The Task Force on Aboriginal Peoples in Federal Corrections," my mind was pacing, wondering on the possibility of doing something I can't make myself believe in. Coming to the conclusion of recognizing that I am not out to condemn certain peoples or parties or Task Forces. This is only one of many speaking as an individual. I believe deeply that I will speak when given the chance on any Native issue.

MY MIND IS INDIAN
MY HEART IS INDIAN
MY LIFE IS INDIAN

I wear such a facade that hides the animosity and hurt I feel until I see a time fit to introduce it to others seeing on the same level as I.

All this deals with us presently and more importantly, our future generations. Any opportunity that opens and invites ways for our people to better our lives inside and outside of prison. *My heart belongs to my people.*

All I ask is the truth be spoken, written and heard. No more rearranging the puzzle so it looks good in their eyes, for their files. Stop and remember all of us women that are striving for survival, for our lives and for our futures. We're left with high hopes and fewer dreams. It is my concern that there is a thirst for understanding, good hearted and open minded people are needed in choosing the right allies acceptable to deal with issues and reports dealing our cards and bring reports, more Task Forces that will show us another solution or, another "answer"?

To some people their job is work to be done. Once the job is finished they put us in a neat brown file and pass it on to the next one down the line. A better name for their whole concept is masking tape ... white man style.

It is our lives and our peoples' future at stake here. Decisions made by the "so-called-powers-that-be" that don't have the least bit of understanding of how we live and feel. Do they realize that they hold our future in their hands? They are deciding our futures but fail to acknowledge that it is our lives and bodies in here ... not theirs!!

They may not see it now but in 10 years from now when another Task Force is on the prowl and they go through the statistics, analyzing the changes made (if any) and how they've worked, will they feel satisfied? A better question: Are we satisfied? How do we feel?

I get restless and begin to feel melancholy inside because as I believed and still do that there is always hope. Even through all the interviews, being analyzed and watched like animals...of course only willing to help my people...they supposedly know our needs better than ourselves. I'm still hoping that maybe something will be successful and will work for our people. I feel raped of what I cherished and cheated for all I gave and never received, not in a materialistic sense but, a moral one.

I don't regret all I've seen and what is trying to be done for our Sisters inside. Very little is all I ask and the bottom line to all this talk is ...

ACTION TALKS - BULLSHIT WALKS

A Skeptical but
Sincere sister...

July 22, 1989

Sandy hanged herself from her cell bars on "B" range on October 12, 1989. Among her family and friends who mourn her, are Sandy's two young sons.