



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR JESUIT EDUCATION

Support Truth and Healing in the History of Indigenous Boarding Schools

Until the 1960s, federal Indian Boarding School policies aimed to assimilate Indigenous peoples into white American culture, compelling Indigenous students to attend boarding schools and prohibiting them from speaking their language or practicing their culture. Many suffered abuse and some never returned home, their bodies buried at the schools. An estimated 100,000 children attended these schools — many of which were run by Catholic religious orders, including the Jesuits. The impacts of intergenerational trauma from this history continue to be experienced in many Tribal communities today.

Click on the links below to learn more about this history and how you can act by supporting a federal Truth and Healing Commission.

- **Watch this [brief explainer video from Vox](#)** on the harms and legacy of Indian boarding schools in the United States.
- **Support the work of Director Christina Roberts and her team at the [Indigenous People's Institute](#)**. Watch this YouTube video from their 2nd Annual [“Honoring Indigenous Voices: Interweaving the Work of Storytelling and its Relationship to Inner Growth”](#) event on October 25, 2021. The three panelists, **yetaxwelwet (Anna Hansen)**, **Kasey Nicholson**, and **Brooke Pinkham**, led the discussion on the intergenerational trauma surrounding mandated boarding schools for First Nations and Native American youth in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- **Watch this [Vimeo video from the Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture](#)**'s event entitled [“Is Healing Possible? Confronting Catholic Indian Boarding School History”](#) on October 12, 2021. The event featured **Maka Black Elk** (Oglala Lakota), Executive Director for Truth and Healing at Red Cloud Indian School, one of the few remaining Jesuit schools serving an indigenous community in the country.
- **Learn about what the [Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States have said](#)** in this [Statement on Boarding Schools for Indigenous Students](#).
- **Act now!** - [Tell Congress to Support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act](#)