

## DVHSC Summit Land Acknowledgement

"Good Morning friends and relatives. My name is Antonia Osife; I am a member of the Gila River Indian community in southern Arizona, and I am an Urban Native, I grew up here in Los Angeles. I was raised on the westside of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Venice and have called LA my home for 50 years. Today I work as a substance abuse counselor, domestic violence advocate & educator for Torres Martinez Tribal TANF. I am honored to offer the land acknowledgment for the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition Community Connections Summit.

As we begin our day, I would like to recognize this land here in Los Angeles as the ancestral lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano Kizh (Gabrilenos), and Chumash people. With great respect and honor we thank them for caring for their homelands.

As guests of this land, we pay honor to the late Tongva Elder Julia Bogany, now an ancestor in the Spirit world. Her work in the Los Angeles community focused on educating women on substance abuse related issues, such as domestic violence and fetal alcohol syndrome. As an elder she was asked to offer her wisdom and guidance in many of the native organizations here in Los Angeles.

The emotional, spiritual, and mental trauma of colonization has affected us all. We are being given this moment to acknowledge this here the present but must also remember the past in order to heal for the future. Los Angeles has one of the largest urban native communities with tribal members from many nations who are here because of Federal Governments Relocation act of the 1960's. We acknowledge those tribes who call Los Angeles their home and work here to help one another in the healing process.

As you go through this day, I encourage you to take a moment of your time to think about this land and those relatives who have passed as a way of thanking them in your own way.

In closing I would like to thank Stephany Whack, the Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 5 | CES for Families of St Joseph's Center & Amy Turk CEO of Downtown Women Center and co-founder of the Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition for giving me this opportunity to share in this acknowledgment.

I would also like to thank Torres Martinez Tribal TANF for giving me the time off to be here today.

AHO, All My Relations"



**Antonia Osife, MA, CADC II, CCJP, DVA**  
Substance Abuse Counselor

A donation for this Land Acknowledgement was made to the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians