

“Repudiate is not revoke; Restoration not Reparation”

By Charmaine White Face

This morning, I had to call my cousin and tell her to stop doing the Snoopy Happy Dance. She was dancing because we had heard the Pope had revoked the Doctrines of Discovery. That was not true. He only ‘repudiated’ the Doctrines of Discovery, not “revoked” them. Then another cousin called and I had to tell him the same thing. There is a difference between ‘repudiate’ and ‘revoke’.

The word “repudiate” according to the Merriam Webster Dictionary means “to cast off” or “to refuse to have anything to do with” or “to refuse to acknowledge.” We can all do that to those atrocious, horrible, abominable, appalling, and revolting Doctrines that were established by the Catholic Church.

The fact that these political Doctrines came into being in the late 1400s is no excuse as these doctrines are the legal foundation upon which American and Canadian laws stand today. As recently as 2005, the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg used these Doctrines against the Oneidas in *Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation* in New York.

These Doctrines still have an effect on us today. This does not even begin to cover the genocide of nations (plural) in the Americas, Africa, and the Pacific. The torture and suffering endured over these hundreds of years is carried over on our genes as methylates from the trauma. The colonizing nations, such as the USA, continue to do as they will with no regard to the Human and Civil Rights of Indigenous peoples. After all, it is only the resources they are after.

The word “revoke”, also according to the Dictionary, means “to annul by recalling or taking back” or “to repeal” or “to rescind.” The Pope does have that capability, which the rest of us do not. The Catholic Church needs to ‘revoke’ the Doctrines of Discovery. He needs to repeal them since the whole world now knows that Indigenous peoples all over the world are, indeed, human beings. Although in the United States, we are not “human beings” unless we denounce our own Indigenous Nations, and expatriate ourselves according to the Standing Bear case. But that’s for another discussion.

The question is “Why would the Pope do this now?” Many Indigenous representatives have been asking him to do this for decades? So why would he do this now?

Then I remembered recently submitting a response to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, and Reparation, Fabian Salvioli, who asked for Inputs on the question of financing of reparations owed to victims of serious violations of human rights. And I also remembered seeing articles on the Catholic Church and reparations primarily from the descendants of slaves taken from Africa. Then I knew why the Pope and the Catholic Church are doing this now. It has nothing to do with Indigenous peoples as human beings but rather with how much financing will be asked.

There can be no reparation for the genocide for all of the Indigenous nations that are no longer here. How do you financially pay for one human life? Isn’t that what slavery is all about? Isn’t that what human trafficking all about?

Remember, the Vatican is a City-State. In the current international political understanding they are a State, and the Vatican has a seat at the table of the United Nations as a non-voting member. Did the Vatican bring up this question at the General Assembly regarding financing for the human rights violations of slavery and the treatment of Indigenous peoples?

There is a difference between “reparations” and “restoration.” In the situation of the Sioux nation it is simple. There must be Restoration. How? The way is simple. Enforce the complete 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the last legal treaty made between the Sioux Nation and the United States. In particular is Article II which states the territory named in the Treaty is “...set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Indians...” And who can do this?

The process is already there with the UN Decolonization Committee. Yes, it will take time. Yes, it will take money. But the way has already been proven with other Indigenous nations such as East Timor.

So, is the Pope saying “Repudiate” the Doctrines of Discovery now, while buying time so he can say “Revoke” the Doctrines of Discovery after the Special Rapporteur on Truth etc. gives his report to the UN General Assembly next Fall, 2023? Right now as far as Reparations are going, the Catholic Church is delegating that to regions or areas on an individual basis. We will see.

Charmaine White Face (76) is Oglala Tituwan Oceti Sakowin and the Spokesperson for the 1894 Sioux Nation Treaty Council. She can be reached at cwhiteface@gmail.com.

1894 Sioux Nation Treaty Council

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Fabian Salviola, Special Rapporteur
on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence
Palais des nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Re: Financing of Reparations owed to victims of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law

Dear Sir

This is submitted in response to your request for Inputs to examine the question of the financing of reparations owed to victims of serious violation of human rights and humanitarian law. The perspective of financing for reparations is incomplete. Reparations also present the opportunity for restoration and nation-building. You touch on this briefly in your questionnaire.

Providing financing for reparations is a one-sided view as it represents the side that values money as the sole objective. It fails to take into consideration a number of issues such as the following:

1. Different forms of financing change. Right now, the American dollar is in flux and by tomorrow may have lost its value so that \$1,000.00 today may only be \$5.00 tomorrow.
2. How do you put a financial value on human beings? That is one of the rights to be human that was already imposed on us as the Euro-American white man brought in the concept of scalping so that an American Indian man's scalp was worth \$1 while an American Indian woman's or child's scalp was only worth \$0.50.
3. How do you put a value on sacred places? The United States did that as recently as 1980 when their Supreme Court offered \$17.1 million dollars plus interest for the sacred Black Hills. Although our people are the poorest in the United States, we still refused to take the money as there is no monetary value on sacredness. The amount is sitting in the Mellon Bank and has grown to more than \$1 billion dollars which we still refuse.
4. How do you put a monetary value on Trauma and Post Trauma Stress? Today as this is being written, the United States is removing a child from a Sioux home wrongfully accusing the Sioux parents of mistreating their children without once providing a way for the parents the opportunity of due process of law for cause, a human right to defend themselves and their families. There are more than 700 Sioux children currently in the foster care system in the state of South Dakota (SD) alone according to SD Legislative Representative Shawn Bordeaux. How many more are there in the other states?
5. How do you put a monetary value on missing and murdered Sioux men, women and children? The human traffickers already do that. Is the United Nations going into the field of human trafficking?

This last comment brings us to the crux of the matter. There is no way to adequately finance reparations for the abuses of human rights and humanitarian law lest the UN become a collaborator in such abuse. That is not the purpose of HRC Resolution 45/10 and its supporting documents. Their purpose is to insure that ALL human beings have the same Human Rights all over the world.

The Sioux Nation is an ancient Indigenous nation located in the center of North America. We are commonly called American Indian or Native American by the dominant Euro-American white society, to distinguish us from the Indians from India or the people from the West Indies. Our Indigenous name is Oceti Sakowin meaning Seven Nations.

The Sioux Nation Treaty Council (SNTC) came into being in 1894 in order for all people to remember that the Sioux Nation had a treaty for peace, the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, which was asked for by the United States government. (15 Stats., 635) Our first treaty was with France in 1658. (A Chronological Review of Dakota Oyate Treaties with the French, the British, the USA, as well as Canada on behalf of the British Crown; Omani, Leo J., 2004)

From 1868 until recently, it was forbidden by the United States for the Sioux people to have any Treaty documents or to speak of the Treaty. If our people did then they would be killed, incarcerated, or lobotomized without anesthesia at the Canton, SD, Indian Insane Asylum by the government of the United States. Therefore, the work and documents of the 1894 SNTC were underground for decades. A legation from the 1894 SNTC has been attending meetings at the United Nations in Geneva and New York City for more than forty (40) years seeking the full enforcement of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

The 1868 Treaty was often blatantly and violently desecrated with numerous massacres of unarmed Sioux people. The massacre most remembered is the Massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890 a mere 22 years after the US signed the Treaty. More than three-hundred (300) unarmed mostly elders, women and children were killed by 500 United States' soldiers and buried in a mass grave. To add insult to injury, twenty (20) U.S. Medals of Honor were given to twenty soldiers for committing these murders and have not been renounced by the US government. No amount of financial reparation can be made for not only the loss of lives but also the trauma that was deliberately inflicted on all of the people. That the US would so violently kill unarmed human beings who were only seeking safety is still an execration that cannot be forgotten especially when descendants of survivors are still here with their family stories. (Grandma's Experiences Leave a Mark on Your Genes, Discover Magazine, May, 2013) There is no way to medically heal Post Trauma Stress when it is a part of the DNA.

The Sioux Nation continues to suffer innumerable gross human rights violations to this day at the hands of the United States. However, we are not asking for financial reparations but **RESTORATION** of our legal Treaty Territory and **full enforcement** of the provisions made in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. We only wish to live by ourselves, governing our own selves, speaking our own language, on our own land, the 1868 Treaty Territory. **This type of Restoration can be provided by the UN Decolonization Committee and will be enforcing HRC Resolution 48/7.** This is a more humane way for us, and many of the other Indigenous nations in North America who also have treaties with the United States or Canada, to be completely the independent nations we once were for millennia.

We sincerely hope you will present the recommendation of **Restoration of nations** to the General Assembly. The opportunity for Reparation should be offered to those who wish. However, the opportunity for Restoration and Decolonization must also be made available for those who want

Restoration. We strongly recommend that more financing be made available for Restoration and Decolonization for both Indigenous Nations and the Communities of Indigenous Peoples seeking to stop Human Rights abuses through Decolonization. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by

Zumila Wobaga, Itancan (Oceti Sakowin name and title)

Charmaine White Face, Spokesperson (American name and title)

“The Oceti Sakowin and the Peta Sakowin”

“AKA The Great Sioux Nation”

Introduction

One of my granddaughters works in the media. She has lots of contacts in social media and told me that there are many of our young people who want to know who they are. She asked me if I could send to her information about the *Oceti Sakowin* (the Seven Sub-nations) and the *Peta Sakowin* (the Seven bands of the *Tituwan*) that she would be able to share.

I was one of the lucky ones whose grandmother, despite going to a boarding school at age 8 in 1902, already knew who she was. She was born in 1894 and she taught me, as best she could, who we are. Many other elders added information too. It has helped me all my life. However, she also told me not to tell anyone. The information she was giving to me about who we are, and about the 1868 Treaty, was still outlawed in the 1940s and 1950s when I was a child. It is no surprise that most of our people do not know our history so we can not be upset with ourselves for not knowing it. The United States (US) government did not want us to remember that we belong to a unique sovereign nation.

We are in the last days of *Unci Ina Makoce* (Grandmother and Mother Earth). Our young people need direction and guidance to know who they are. I am a great-grandmother now. It is very important that we have this knowledge and correct information. There is so much information that I am hoping the young peoples' genetic memory on their DNA as members of the Oceti Sakowin will be triggered, and they start remembering, or ask questions to learn more. These are the kinds of things taught by grandparents in the winter.

Any teaching about our culture, spirituality, and the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty was outlawed in South Dakota since the late 1800s. Our elders also warned us about not telling our ancient history as the *wasicu* would exploit and misuse the information. At that time, in the late 1800s early 1900s, any of our people trying to explain who we are to the *wasicu* would be killed, imprisoned, or declared insane and sent to Canton, SD, where they were lobotomized without anesthesia. Therefore, all the information went underground and was told secretly to a few children or grandchildren if possible. I was even warned not to tell my parents, so I didn't. Those elders that knew who we were, wanted the information passed down, but had to be very careful who knew.

The colonization by the United States was meant to turn us into “white” people, and to be Americans instead of Oceti Sakowin. We were to forget about our own nation and our own language and culture. This is Genocide when one nation wants another nation to CEASE TO EXIST. This is still happening today and has almost succeeded. Our young people want to know who they are because they cannot come to terms with the values and society of the United States.

The white people, thinking that they were superior based on their culture from Europe, thought they were superior to all Indigenous peoples around the world, not just in North and South America. They still do to this day as shown in their work at the United Nations. (See Indigenous Nations Rights in the Balance, Living Justice Press, 2013) They want all peoples to be like them, only we never could. Physically, even our DNA is specific to us and I'm a

biologist so it makes sense to me. Is the DNA of a tulip different than the DNA of a daisy? They are both flowers but their DNA is different. So it is the same way with human beings.

The *wasicu* values are also very different than Indigenous, or Native values. The *wasicu* doesn't know about the spirituality that exists in all things so they abuse and destroy everything, even human beings. Their Christian religion teaches that God is everywhere but they must not believe it or they would not do what they have done and continue doing. Destroying Mother and Grandmother Earth who gives us life only means the destruction of their own kind. The *wasicu* values are based on the physicality and worth of something without considering the spirituality of that something.

How much more intelligence does it take to live completely WITH *Unci Ina Makoce* and all of her other children: the plants, animals, birds, fish, everything, and not destroy anything? That's what we did. We were not the cavemen grunting around that the *wasicu* thought we were, just because we could live in an excellent way WITH the environment. We wore leather clothes and lived in leather houses. We had a symbiotic relationship with the buffalo and many other life forms. The *wasicu* were already in the process of destroying their own environment in Europe by the time they arrived here in 1492. And now they are destroying the whole world.

An ancient nation

We are an ancient, ancient nation with a civilization that is older than any other peoples. An elder once told me, "The Oglalas don't call Bear Butte by that name. We call it 'Groaning Bear'." As a scientist, I wondered, geologically, when was the last time Groaning Bear emitted sound? The *wasicu* say it is an extinct volcano. The last time it emitted sound as a volcano was 65 million years ago. So were we here 65 million years ago? That's when most people stop listening...or reading in this case. There can't be a nation that old! That is when I say, "We also have songs about leaving the dinosaurs in the ground." We have proof of all this but that is for another discussion another time. Our people lived on average to be 150 to 200 years old. That puts more things in perspective. Prior to the invasion of European people, our people lived in a good way with *Unci Ina Makoce* and all of her other children. This way of life made all the people to be very healthy.

We know where we came from and often are called the 'star' people. We talk about our relatives from the stars coming to visit again. The Northern Cheyenne nation and many other Indigenous nations in North America also have this same information. On the Northern Cheyenne Reservation on Deer Medicine Rock is a petroglyph with this identical information. Again, something the colonizers don't want to believe. We knew about space and the stars. We are an ancient, ancient nation. Other Native American people in the Southwest of North America, who know their own ancient history, call us, the Oceti Sakowin people who live in western South Dakota, their 'ancestors'... because we are.

We are an ancient civilization millions of years old. We've had a lot of time to learn many things but the *wasicu* has tried to erase most of that knowledge from our brains. For example, at one time our people had technology that was more advanced than the technology of today, but our technology almost destroyed *Unci Ina Makoce*. At that time, eons ago, in order to save *Unci Ina Makoce* and all life, technology was forbidden to be talked about or developed again. Rather, spirituality was to be understood more fully. The *wasicu* technology is destroying Her now but they won't listen to our warnings.

The Oceti Sakowin and the Peta Sakowin

The *Oceti Sakowin* were united in many ways. The *Oceti Sakowin* was one nation comprised of seven (7) sub-nations connected with the same language only separated by three letters: N, D, and L, such as nakota, dakota, or lakota which means “language”, or “ally” when referring to a friend or affiliate. So when a person would say, “Damakota” it would mean “I am an ally, or friend.” The Oceti Sakowin did not identify themselves by the language they spoke.

To identify themselves as an ally or friend was important when the Oceti Sakowin first met the Frenchmen near the Great Lakes in the 1600s. However, those Frenchmen had already met the Anishnaabe (Ojibwa) farther East who called the Oceti Sakowin the word “Nadowessi” (little snake) which the French spelled ‘Nadouessioux’ and shortened the word to ‘Sioux.’ The name “Sioux” stuck with future European-American colonists.

Figure 1. shows the seven sub-nations and the letter they spoke. The largest to the west of the other sub-nations, the *Tituwan*, were also called the *Peta Sakowin* (Seven Fires) because they had seven bands. The *Tituwan* were the only ones to speak the *Lakota* language. The *Ihankowanna* had two bands.

OCETI SAKOWIN

(SEVEN COUNCIL FIRES)

“D” Speakers

Sissitowan
(Live among the old
fish bones)

Wahpetowan
(Live among the leaves)

Mdewakantowan
(Live at Spirit Lake)

Wahpekute
(Shooters among
the leaves)

“N” Speakers

Ihanktowan
(Live at the end of the
camp circle)

Ihanktowanna
(Younger ones who live
at the end of the camp)

Bands:
Hohe (Assiniboine)

Inyan He Wicasa
AKA: Stoney
(Live in the
Rocky Mountains)

“L” Speakers

Tituwan
(Live on the prairie)
AKA: Peta Sakowin
(Seven small fires)

Bands:
Hunkpapa
(Entrance dwellers)

Itazipco
(No bows)
Siha Sapa
(Have black feet)
Sicangu
(Burnt thighs)
Oohenunpa
(Two kettles)
Mnikowaju
(Plant in water)
Oglala
(Scatter their own
–a defense tactic)

Figure 1.

The Buffalo People

We are also called the Buffalo People because our older brothers and sisters, the Buffalo, followed us out of Wind Cave when our first ancestors decided to live upon *Unci Ina Makoce*. We lived inside the Black Hills before that time. Our first ancestors were warned NOT to come onto the surface of *Unci Ina Makoce*, but they were tricked by the Two-Faced Woman, a sacred being. (Remember that sacred beings can be good or bad.) Therefore, our elders, the Buffalo, followed us two-leggeds to help us live with *Unci Ina Makoce* and provide for us all that we needed. We, in turn, followed their example of how to live a good life and followed natural law.

We protected the children, revered the elders, and had respect for everyone and everything. There were no orphanages or prisons. If one went hungry, all went hungry. We shared with each other all that we had. We were organized into large extended families and the old grandmas gave the advice for all to follow, just like the oldest female buffalo is the leader of the herd. Women and children were not considered property but were considered sacred. Children were sacred because they just came from the spirit world. Women were considered sacred because they were the givers of life. The men were the providers and protectors of all. With the colonization and the boarding schools, and today with smart phones and computers, our original knowledge has faded. Is it still in our genetic memory? Learn what you can about buffalo herds, how they protect their young, and how the males protect all.

In the mid 2000s, the Yankton Sioux Tribe's Treaty Committee hosted a meeting in Wagner, SD. The speaker was Dr. Leo Omani, PhD. from Canada. He had just completed a work called "A Chronological Review of Dakota Oyate Treaties with The French, the British, the USA, as well as Canada on behalf of the British Crown." It contained a map of our original territory.

However, Dr. Omani continued his research and has developed two new maps showing the range of the buffalo before the invasion by the European colonists, and the second is the original traditional territory of the Oceti Sakowin. They can be found in his work entitled "Linguist Chart and Map of the original Indigenous Aboriginal Traditional Territory within North America of the Dakota Oyate now referred as the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota, thus generally known as the Sioux who were also known in centuries past as the buffalo people whose original Indigenous Aboriginal Traditional Territory within North America is now overlapped by the boundary line of the countries that have come to be known as the U.S.A. and Canada." See Figure 2. on page 6

After hundreds of years of treaties and betrayals by the white people, the last Treaty made between the Tituwan, the Ihanktowan and the U.S.A. was the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. Considering that our Aboriginal Territory covered 24 American states and 4 Canadian provinces, this last Treaty only provided half of a state, the state of South Dakota with portions of North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska for our "absolute and undisturbed use and occupation." Our people were decimated with starvation and disease more than any American bullets. However, again, the U.S.A. found something in the middle of the Treaty territory that they wanted which was gold. They placed our surviving people in Prisoner-of-War camps called

American Indian Reservations. (The Creator has reasons for all things which we don't understand yet.)

According to Dr. Omani's research: "Hence, the Indigenous Aboriginal First Nations peoples' population within North America from 112 million in year 1492 to that now of 2.6 million in year 2021 still represents a decrease of 110.8 million Indigenous Aboriginal First Nations peoples within North America since the time of first contact with those of European ancestry."

There is so much more information about who we are that is not found in books. If you wish to learn about some of our old laws and rules, go to **www.siouxnationtreatycouncil.org** and look up "The Ancient Laws of the Oceti Sakowin." That website also has information about our involvement at the international level as a distinct and separate nation from the United States in seeking the assistance from the other nations of the world to have the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty fully enforced.

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March 30, 2023

COPY

Pope Francis
The Vatican
00120 Vatican City
Italy

Dear Father Francis,

We are sending this plea to you with hope that you will use your voice and influence with the family of nations. This is not a plea for our liberation from colonizing oppression but for our very survival.

With the current escalating conflict between Russia, China, the United States, and North Korea, the outlook is grim for those of us from tiny nations. We are overlooked even in times of peace. During times of conflict, often the larger nations, such as the United States, use our men and women to fight in their military services. Furthermore, all of their weapons of mass destruction decimate not just the flora and fauna but also Mother Earth Herself. The Climate Crisis is bad enough without adding nuclear weapons. Radioactivity destroys everything with its contact. In this time of turmoil and crisis, we should be asking ourselves why is there a need to establish power and control over human beings and nature?

As you know, the world is in chaos and its inhabitants are in spiritual turmoil due to a group of individuals who have a domination mentality instead of the mentality of being a son or daughter of Mother Earth. The world is full of lost souls searching for grounding and for truth which can be found in nature and the teachings of the Creator. We understand that you have a flock that seeks your guidance and wisdom, and we hope and pray that you hear our message.

We are asking that you encourage all people to pray and advocate for the survival of ALL and especially the survival of Mother Earth and all of her children. Our nations and peoples lived for thousands of years WITH Mother Earth and her other offspring without destroying anything because we understood the spirituality that is in everything. The one whose name you took, Saint Francis of Assisi, understood this as well.

We ask, please, use your tremendous voice to encourage the mature and nonviolent deliberation and mediation of these current conflicts. We also ask that you encourage prayers for the continued survival of all Indigenous nations and peoples around the world. Perhaps then, finally, there can be peace between all nations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charmaine White Face". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Charmaine White Face, Spokesperson
Zumila Wobaga, Itancan