



Tohono O'odham Nation
Office of the
Chairman and Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



PROCLAMATION

Establishing September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the values of the Tohono O'odham Nation support living life to the fullest from birth through elderhood. The tradition of our People and our ancestors teaches that life is sacred and is to be protected and honored; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham Nation recognizes that suicide continues to be a public health concern and acknowledges the direct impact it has on our families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the origins of this pervasive concern can be traced to colonization, which includes the introduction of alcohol, forced removal of children, boarding schools, and loss of land, culture, language, and traditional ways of life; and

WHEREAS, together we can reduce the incidence of suicide and its impact by recognizing the warning signs, educating ourselves, sharing the information and resources that are readily available to assist our Nation's members, and to be a source of hope and help to those struggling to overcome mental health challenges, including substance misuse; and

WHEREAS, change requires the support of tribal and district officials, the collaborative efforts of the Nation's programs, leadership from those who have lived experience, including those that are survivors of the loss of a loved one; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, hereby proclaim that September shall be recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. I call upon all tribal citizens, tribal organizations, health officials, law enforcement, schools, and all tribal programs to learn about the resources available, share those resources with others, and stand together in our traditional ways of respect, honor, love, and compassion to assist our relatives to be safe from suicide and to encourage them to seek the help they need.

Dated this 1st day of September 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ned Norris Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Ned Norris Jr., Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation