



An Open Letter to the Havasupai Tribal Council

Dear Havasupai Tribal Council,

We are so very sorry for the genocide and atrocities that were foisted on First Nation Peoples. We are so very sorry that colonizers took precious tribal children in the name of religion and greed, that imperialists raped wives and mothers and sisters, that the sacred land and its beasts were ravaged by those who did not understand the way of your People. Cherished and precious ways of being were destroyed, cultures annihilated. From plagues and death marches to the theft of their homes, your ancestors suffered great evils at the cruel hands of an unjust system. That system, that suffering, continues to this day.

On behalf of the Stop Animal Violence Foundation's volunteers, we stand up to say these historic wrongs cannot be excused. We stand up to say that the past and current systemic oppression of your people was, and is, criminal.

We stand horrified by the bloody history upon which this country was built and we acknowledge the pain and suffering of your people. Some of us, too, are of native decent or have historical oppression in our family history. We believe that one of the chief dangers to any people, faced with such overwhelming tragedy, is to channel the rage, the pain, the grief into violence against the powerless, the vulnerable. That is a sickness of the soul.

Grievous historic wrongs, even wrongs as egregious as genocide, cannot and do not excuse the cruelty, abuse, neglect, torture, and starvation routinely and demonstrably inflicted on the vulnerable pack animals by certain individuals in Havasupai.

Of course, in all communities of people there are differing opinions, differing values, and different characters. We also know that, among the Havasupai themselves, there are many who are deeply disturbed by the mistreatment of these animals. They believe, as we do, that there is no honor in this abuse, this cruelty, this torture. We are not interested in maligning any group of people; we care only about the violence perpetrated by individuals who we acknowledge do not represent an entire group.

We are dedicated to eliminating this chronic and pervasive abuse and, in so doing, improving the lives of both the animals and the humans with which they exist.

We hope for one thing: peace and compassion and kindness for us all.

Stop Animal Violence (SAVE) Foundation