



NNWO Staff Provide Land Acknowledgment at World Pride Rally



Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank Provides a Land Acknowledgment

WASHINGTON, D.C. – History was made this month as Washington, DC hosted WorldPride 2025, the first time the international LGBTQ+ celebration was held in the U.S. capital. The event drew over a million participants from around the world, with the city turning into a vibrant center for advocacy, culture, and unity.

Organized by the Capital Pride Alliance in partnership with InterPride, WorldPride DC 2025 featured more than 100 events, including parades, concerts, art exhibits, and a global human rights conference. Major landmarks such as the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue served as iconic settings for celebrations promoting visibility, equality, and justice.

In keeping with its origins as a protest movement, WorldPride 2025 included a rally focused on raising awareness about the ongoing challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ communities today. To begin the event in a respectful and inclusive manner, organizers consulted with local Indigenous leaders, and NNWO Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank was invited to deliver a land acknowledgment. In their remarks, Deputy Director Crank recognized Washington, D.C. as the ancestral homeland of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples, emphasizing that these Tribal

Nations continue to exist and thrive today. They also drew a powerful parallel between the struggles of the LGBTQIA+ and Indigenous communities, highlighting shared experiences of erasure, marginalization, and the ongoing fight for recognition, equality, and justice.

“We must all match our words with meaningful actions. We must challenge stereotypes and reject myths. Indigenous people are not relics of the past. We are here- present, powerful, and building futures on our own terms” they said.

As WorldPride 2025 ended, the energy and solidarity that filled the streets of DC left a lasting mark on all who attended. More than just a celebration, the event served as a global call to action—amplifying the voices of LGBTQIA+ communities, Indigenous peoples, and other historically marginalized groups. With a renewed commitment to visibility, justice, and inclusion, WorldPride reaffirmed that the fight for equality is far from over, but together, progress is possible.