

Tribal Standards of Care
Breakout Sessions Handout

Part 1:

It is important to consider the isolation these students felt while in boarding school. Unlike today, they did not have access to cell phones or social media to keep in touch with loved ones back home. The only way to communicate was through letters, many of which went unanswered. The isolation from family and culture led many children to believe they were not wanted or even forgotten. This cultural estrangement has reverberated through generations and is something Native people are still grappling with today.

Discuss: How would you feel if you or loved one were in this situation?

Part 2:

"...While 'the human rights framework works well in stressing our supposed common humanity to address inequalities between individuals' (Webb 2003:198), it does not work well with differences ...uniqueness of any particular culture. More importantly for indigenous contexts, social work's dominant modern foundation that includes.....individualism, and materialism, cannot adequately deal with the responsibilities that membership in a particular community...relationship patterns, ...cultural traditions require. For indigenous people--...relationship to the community is experienced as part of the fabric of their identity this denial of history and place has been immensely damaging and disempowering, and challenging it lies at the heart of indigenous social work."

Discuss: What is your biggest takeaway?