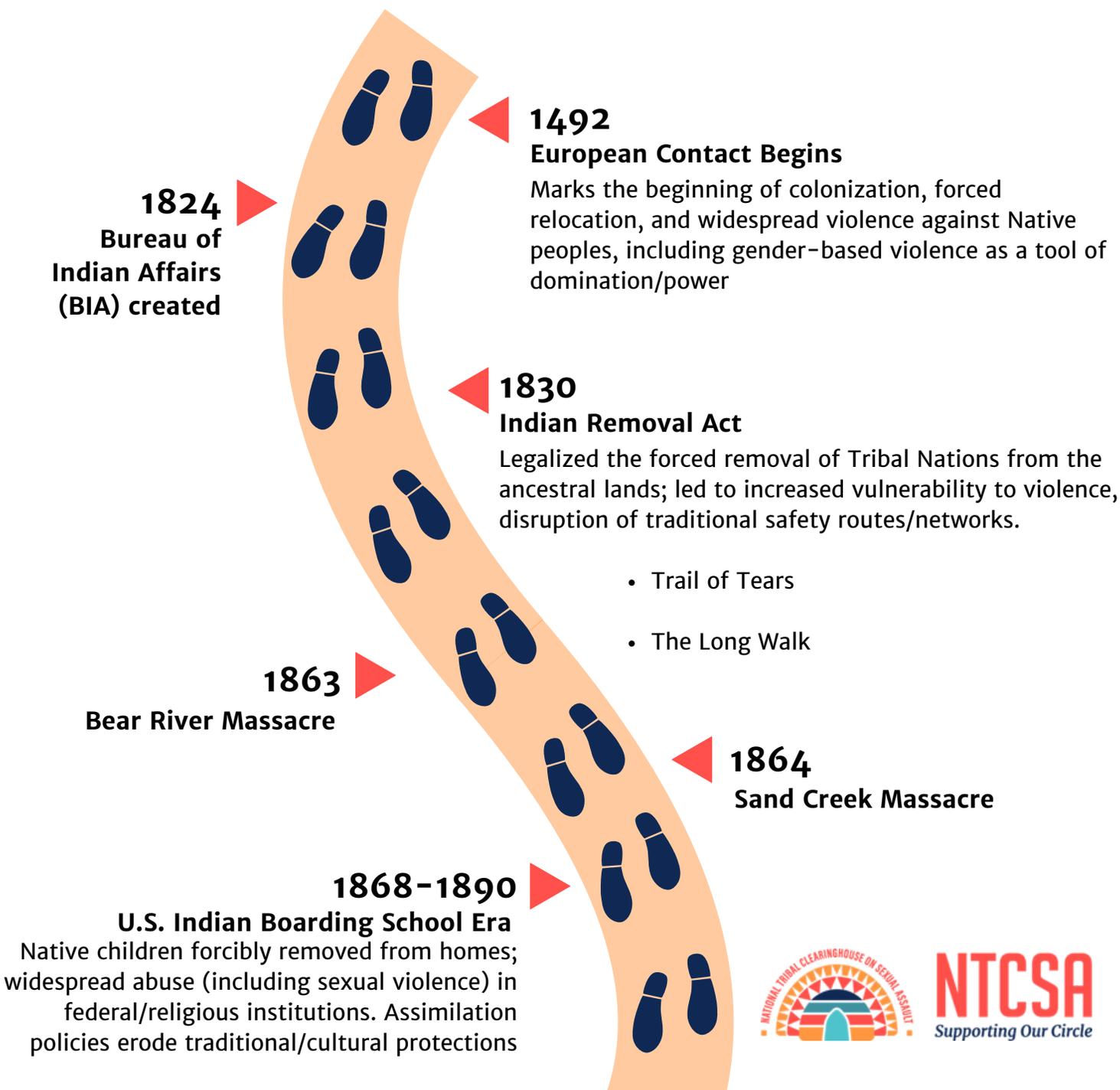


A WALK IN OUR MOCCASINS: FOOTSTEPS OF TRUTH

This timeline provides an overview of historical and contemporary factors contributing to prevalence of sexual violence within Tribal populations. It traces the impact of federal policies, legal decisions, jurisdictional gaps, and social movements that have shaped the challenges and responses within those communities. It seeks to promote greater understanding of the complex landscape surrounding sexual violence within Indian Country and to support ongoing efforts toward justice, accountability, and self-determination.





1871

End of Treaty making with Tribes

U.S. Congress ends formal treaty making, undermining Tribal sovereignty and the ability to self-govern/protect against crimes in their communities

1885

Major Crimes Act

Granted Federal government jurisdiction over major crimes in Indian Country, often failing to prosecute and ignoring Tribal justice systems

1890

Wounded Knee Massacre

1924

Indian Citizenship Act

Grants U.S. citizenship to Native people without fully restoring legal protections or voting rights; Tribal jurisdiction remains restricted

1940-1960
Termination Policies

1960-1970

Forced sterilizations

1964

Native American right to vote established

1973

Wounded Knee Occupation

1975

Indian Self-Determination & Education Assistance Act

Begins shift back toward Tribal governance of health, education, and justice systems, many institutional issues remain.



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1978
Indian Religious Freedom Act

1980
WARN & NIRC founded

Women of All Red Nations and the National Indian Resource Center addressing domestic violence led grassroots action for Native women's safety.

1998
The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (Originally adopted in 1984)

Authorized the first National Indian Resource Center Addressing domestic violence (the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center has filled this legislatively mandated role since 2011).

2005-2007
Amnesty International Report: "Maze of Injustice"

Documents high rates of sexual violence against Native women and failures in the U.S. justice system; spurs increased national advocacy.

1978
Oliphant v. Suquamish Supreme Court Decision

Rules that Tribal courts cannot prosecute non-Native people, even for crimes (like sexual assault) committed on Tribal lands—creating a major legal loophole.

1990
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

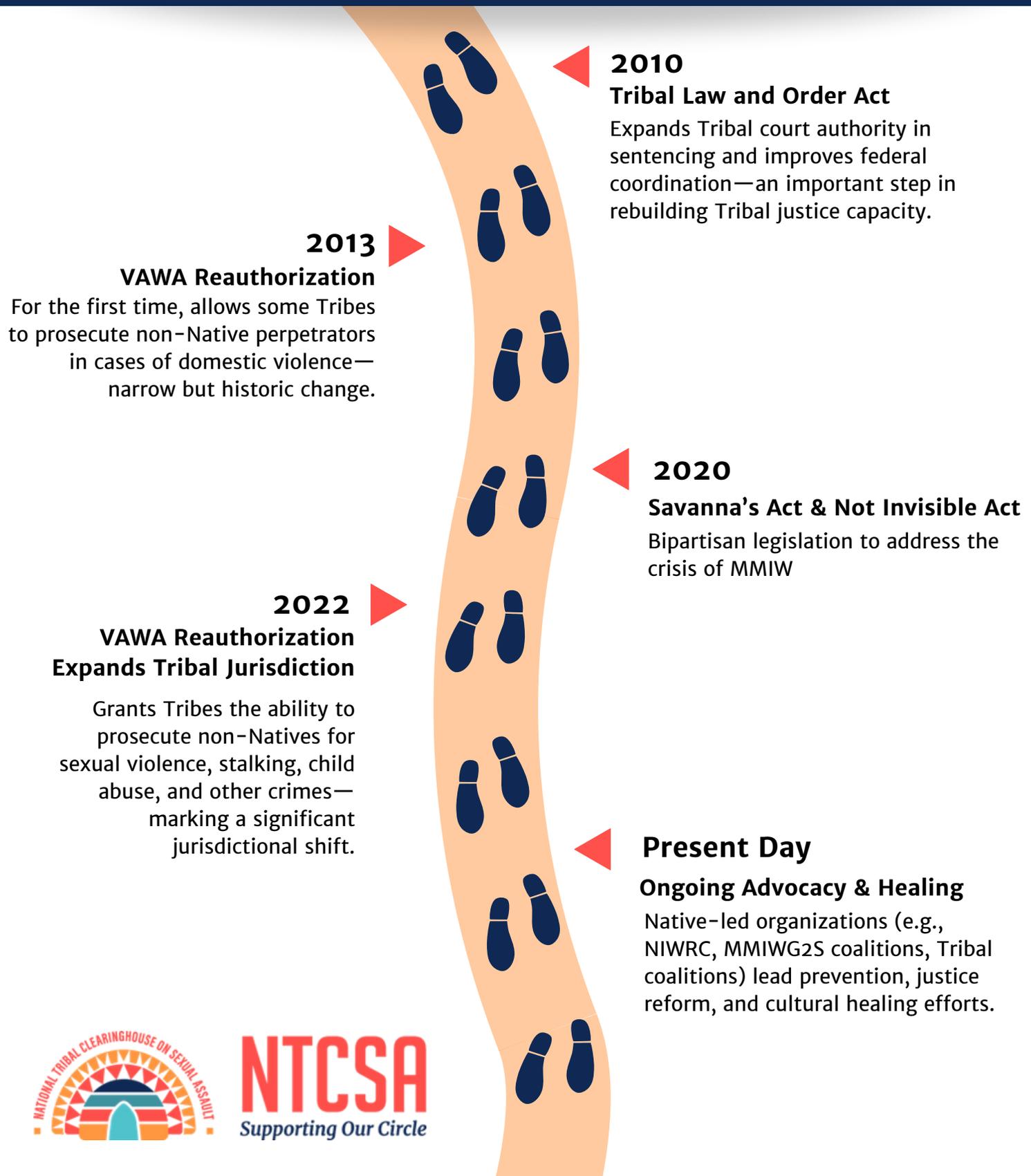
Acknowledges historical/past trauma; part of a broader movement for cultural and human rights, including the safety of Native women and children.

2005
The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), originally adopted in 1994

Amended to include Title IX: Safety for Indian Women, in which Congress noted the high rates of violence against American Indians and Alaska Natives and acknowledged the need for a heightened federal response to enhance public safety for Indian Tribes



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Sources: <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/index.html>
<https://legaltimelines.org/timeline/native-american-history/#event-tribal-law-and-order-act>

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