

LAS VEGAS, N.V. — In a gathering of tribal leaders and organizations at the TriSec 2024 Conference during the week of April 22 in Las Vegas, Nevada, Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton delivered a powerful keynote address, where she discussed pressing issues such as public safety and the interplay of traditional governance in modern Navajo society. The conference, organized by the Falmouth Institute, provided a platform for discussing and addressing key issues that affect Native American tribes.

Charles-Newton, who chairs the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Law and Order Committee, highlighted the deep-seated narratives that have shaped the Navajo Nation, including the creation of the clans' story and the teachings and principles embedded in the Navajo Nation's Fundamental Law. She expressed the importance of these traditions in guiding contemporary governance and legislative processes.

Regarding federal advocacy, Charles-Newton also stressed the importance of partnering and collaborating with federal officials and leaders to develop solutions to problems that hinder public safety efforts in tribal communities.

"I'm proud to be rez if it means getting the message across to Congress to get the necessary needs to the Navajo Nation," she stated.

In addition to discussing these historical contexts, Charles-Newton also brought attention to the HBO documentary, *Navajo Police: Class 57*, which provides a poignant look at the challenges and dedication of the Navajo Police force. The documentary underscores the urgent need for enhancing public safety resources on the Navajo Nation, a key topic in her advocacy to Congress.

Other distinguished keynote speakers included Teresa Choyguha, Marketing & Public Relations Director from the Tohono O'odham Nation, and Lisa Harjo, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Choyguha set an upbeat tone for the conference with her energetic welcome speech, while Harjo delivered a moving prayer in her native language, blessing the event and its attendees.

## Charles-Newton champions Navajo sovereignty at TriSec 2024

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The conference also included sessions on public safety challenges specific to tribal lands. Charles-Newton used her platform to advocate for stronger support and resources for the Navajo Police Department, which is crucial to addressing public safety needs in the Navajo Nation.

This year's TriSec was not merely a venue for critical discourse but also served as a cultural celebration and a platform for strengthening intertribal connections. Leaders and advocates from various tribes shared insights, forging new relationships and collaborative efforts to address common challenges.

As the Navajo Nation continues its advocacy for better resources and recognition, the insights and discussions from TriSec 2024 are expected to foster a broader understanding and cooperation among Native American tribes.

