

Statement of Paula Castro Stops

My daughter's name is Henny Scott. In December 2018, Henny became a MMIWG victim. There are no words to describe this loss. No words to describe this grief. No words to describe this pain. There comes a point when even if there were words, they wouldn't be enough, because what the families of MMIWG victims need is action and people to help and support us in bringing about that action. Rain is one of those people. He is like family to us.

I first want to be clear that what this person is saying about Rain is ridiculous. Who does this? Who attacks people in this underhanded way, misrepresents them, and willfully misinterprets things or makes things up? What purpose does this serve and who benefits from trying to discredit people who do good for MMIWG families and communities? Whoever this person thinks she is, she's lost. She clearly doesn't keep herself busy enough.

Let me end one of these supposed allegations against Rain right here and now. He doesn't pretend to be "Indian." He doesn't call himself "Indian." My husband Nate and I were on the Dr. Phil Show with Rain, thanks to his documentary Say Her Name which included Henny's story, and the Missing and Murdered in Montana documentary. The Dr. Phil Show producer wanted to introduce Rain as a "Native American filmmaker" but he insisted that they didn't because he doesn't identify himself as "Native American." What I'm relaying is fact. I was there. It's not gossip or speculation.

I'm a Northern Cheyenne. I know the Strangeowls. I know the family of the late Don Shoulderblade who was a Sun Dance Priest. These are Rain's family members on our reservation. We have our own ways of deciding who our family members are, who our relatives are, and we always have had. We don't need the government or outsiders to tell us who our family members are. These are family decisions. Families don't have to explain or justify who their family members are. We go by our oral histories, by our hearts, not by pieces of paper, internet searches, or government rules. Rain has every right in our Northern Cheyenne way to say who his family is. His good work for our people brings honor to the family.

The documentaries Rain has made aren't about him. These films are about our children, our lost loved ones, and the families left to carry the burden. To silence Rain would be to silence the families' stories, and who does that benefit? Because that is the consequence of this online hate and lateral violence. Let me be very clear: I've been on TV shows, on TV documentaries. I know the difference between TV budgets and the shoestring budgets Rain somehow made his films on. It is so insulting to imply that these documentaries were made for profits. They were made to keep the names and stories of our loved ones in the public eye, to bring awareness, to make Congresspeople do something, and to hold law enforcement accountable.

Don Shoulderblade gave Rain his traditional name. We know Rain is a stage name. And I know where he comes from. He's talked to us about being in Europe, about the Romani tribes. But even if I didn't know, I wouldn't care where Rain comes from. He could come from Mars and it wouldn't matter to me because what matters is who he is, and he's a person who brings us hope. A person who cares. A person who we know is always there for us and will help us. That's what a real Tribal person is.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Apolonia Castro". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Apolonia" and the last name "Castro" written in a single line.

Paula Castro Stops.
February 22, 2022.