

Why Can Native American Students Wear Tribal Regalia at Graduation?

Isn't graduation attire supposed to be the same for everyone?

Schools often establish graduation attire standards. Arizona law (A.R.S. §15-348), however, recognizes the right of Native American students to wear tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies.

Isn't tribal regalia just a cultural expression?

Tribal regalia reflects cultural traditions, but it is also connected to tribal citizenship and membership in a sovereign tribal nation.

Why is tribal citizenship different?

Federally recognized tribes are governments with authority over their citizens and communities. Tribal citizenship is a legal and political status, not an ethnic or cultural identity.

Why are tribal regalia protections unique?

The recognition of tribal regalia is based on the unique legal relationship between federally recognized tribal nations and the United States.



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