



The Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
Human Rights Committee
110th Session
Geneva, Switzerland

March 13, 2014

United States of America Arizona

Proof of some form of identification card is required to cast a ballot in Arizona. Navajo Nation demonstrated in federal court that a traditional form of identification for the Navajo people is the clan system – k'e. An example of human rights violation:

Navajo Nation v. Brewer—

Ms. Agnes Laughter was born at home in a Hogan and only speaks Navajo. She had voted in every election since Arizona's English language requirements as a criterion for voting were invalidated in 1970. Since she was born at home, she did not have an Arizona birth certificate. She does not have a car and has a limited income. She obtained a delayed birth certificate from Navajo Nation and attempted to obtain a state identification card several times from the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles after Arizona passed its restrictive voter ID law in 2004. She attempted to vote in the first election following the law's implementation and was denied even a provisional ballot. She was so embarrassed that she did not even try to vote in the next election. Finally in 2008, someone picked her up and drove her over 12 hours in one day from her home to three locations to finally obtain an Arizona voter identification card.

Ms. Laughter's situation is often common. Thus, Navajos cast the high number of provisional ballots, which are often not counted.