

**Statements made by representatives of the most endangered languages at the 1994 Native American Language Issues (NALI) conference held in Glorieta, New Mexico.**

Cry those tears of shame out. You have no time to be ashamed, wait or avoid it. You need to go forward and speak. Empowered to become our own experts to learn our language. We must become responsible, No linguist, no universities, no language policies will give your language back. It's up to us.

—Nancy Richardson, Aruk

It's sad to be the last speaker of your language. Please, turn back to your own and learn your language so you won't be alone like me. Go to the young people. Let go of the hate in your hearts. Love and respect yourselves first. Elders please give them courage and they will never be alone. Help our people to understand their identity. We need to publish materials for our people to educate the white people to us and for indigenous people.

—Mary Smith, last speaker of Eyak