**2020 Executive Committee Initiative: Healing Starts Here Resolution**

**Whereas,** the National UNITY Council represents American Indian and Alaska Native youth who are members of the 320+ affiliated youth councils that operate in over 35 states, and

**Whereas,** the 12-member Executive Committee has been elected by the representatives of the National UNITY Council to act on its behalf between its yearly business meetings, and

**Whereas,** United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. is committed to promoting the leadership development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and

**Whereas,** UNITY’s mission is to foster the Spiritual, Mental, Physical and Social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and

**Whereas,** the National UNITY Council has consistently listed barriers to cultural revitalization, blood quantum, and challenges with indigenous identity as one of their UNITY Top Ten areas of concern for more than 5 years in a row, and

**Whereas,** the 2019-2020 Executive Committee Initiative encourages American Indian and Alaska Native youth to take proactive and positive measures to address cultural healing in their own community, and

**Whereas,** the initiative will address Native identity and creating a safe space in which the youth can feel comfortable in their sense of belonging, while encouraging the youth to commit to cultural inclusion through sharing their traditional teachings, and

**Whereas,** the national network of youth councils will commit to developing a strong sense of identity in their community by hosting events addressing language preservation, environmental protection, or participation in cultural activities, etc., Youth will identify what it means to them to be a member of their community and address their “nativeness” through service learning in those areas

**Whereas,** the *Healing Starts Here Initiative* will call youth councils to proactively connect the youth back to a sense of rooted belonging in the UNITY family and in their strengthened Native identity.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that the National UNITY Council Executive Committee and National UNITY Council hereby endorses, supports, and agrees to participate in implementing the *Healing Starts Here* Initiative.

**CERTIFICATION:** The signature of the Executive Committee Co-Presidents and Secretary certifies that this resolution was duly adopted on Feb \_\_\_, 2020, at a meeting in which members were present with a vote of \_\_\_ for, \_\_\_ opposed and \_\_\_ absent.