

## **Jamie Bissonette Lewey**

Jamie Bissonette Lewey is Abenaki. She is the chair of the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission and coordinates the Healing Justice Program for the American Friends Service Committee in New England. At AFSC, her work focuses on the reparation of damaged and disordered social relations and endeavors to restabilize these relationships, revitalize communities, and create capacity for a peaceful future. She works with victims, prisoners, their families, and their communities in the struggle for dignity and self-determination focusing on sovereignty and responsibility rather than rights and entitlements. The people she has worked with have taught her that every community has the shared wisdom to solve its own problems. She focuses on juvenile justice issues and prevention because the protection and education of our children is vital to our future.

Jamie is one of the founders of the Healing and Transformative Justice Center and sits on the board of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which focuses on the needs of families who have lost their children to gun violence in Boston.

With healing and justice as central themes to her work, Jamie has worked in Mexico with Native People who were migrating between Ejidos in Mexico and farm worker jobs in the United States; and in South Africa within the Xhosa Communities in the Townships of Gugulethu and Khayalitsha. In the United States, she has worked with Tribal Communities in the ancestral region of her People, Southern Canada and New England focusing on criminal justice and emerging Tribal justice issues. She has also convened Tribal Leadership Nation-wide on religious freedom, sovereignty and treaty issues. In 2013, the Episcopal Divinity School recognized her lifelong work in healing justice when they awarded her an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity.