



FEW

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*Working for
the advancement
of women
in government*

FEDERALLY
EMPLOYED
WOMEN

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September 14, 2006

Gary Porter
Historic Preservation Officer
General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW, Room 7600
Washington, D.C. 20407

Dear Mr. Porter:

Federally Employed Women (FEW) is a national membership organization formed in 1968 to work for the elimination of discrimination, sexual harassment, and for the advancement of women in government. We represent over one million women employed with the federal government, civilian and military. FEW has become aware, through our partnership with other employee organizations such as the Society for American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE), that murals in the Ariel Rios Federal Building are objectionable to American Indian federal employees and people of color, as well as many other federal employees. We have seen the murals and are disturbed that they depict acts of violent crimes, portraying American Indians as heartless savages.

As an organization, FEW has tried consistently over the past 38 years to address concerns where discrimination occurs and encourage actions to move forward to improve the workplace with an environment of harmony and respect for all persons, regardless of color, race, ethnicity, etc. We are greatly concerned that our American Indian brothers and sisters who work in the Federal workplace are subjected to this offensive portrayal of their culture and heritage in the Ariel Rios Federal Building.

FEW therefore strongly requests that the GSA Historic Preservation Office take the steps necessary to remove all murals that not only cause a hostile working environment but are discriminatory towards American Indians. If FEW can provide any assistance, or if additional letters are required to other Federal offices or congressional representatives, please contact me at your earliest convenience for help.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Trent
President