



National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons

May 5

***"We remember the missing, the murdered, and the disappeared. We fight for the living."*¹**

Last year, President Joe Biden declared May 5th, 2021 as **National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day**, a day when Native people, communities, and their allies come together in solidarity to show honor, respect, remembrance, and share a voice for those who have been forever silenced.²

Invisible No More

There is rampant anger, grief, and hurt in Native communities. Beloved family members are ripped from their families without answers. In some Native families, babies are growing up without mothers, mothers without daughters, and grandmothers without granddaughters. For AI/AN peoples, this adds yet another layer of trauma upon existing generational wounds that remain unhealed.³

Take A Stand and Raise Awareness⁴

- Wear **red** and encourage others to wear **red** on May 5th
- Post a photo on social media with the hashtags #NationalDayofAwareness, #MMIW, or #MMIWG
- Hold a local event in your community like a march, informational session, or training on May 5th
- Participate in a talking circle, healing circle, or other traditional/spiritual healing practices
- Publicize a list of MMIP from your community
- Educate yourself and others in virtual events listed in **Indian Country Today**, **Native News Online**, the **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**, and other Native organizations

References

1. Dawson Women's Shelter. (n.d.). *A year later - We remember, we fight for justice*. <https://www.dawsonwomensshelter.com/blog/a-year-later-we-remember-we-fight>
2. Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women. (n.d.). *MMIWG2S*. <https://www.csvanw.org/mmiwg>
3. Native Hope. (n.d.). *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)*. <https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw>
4. National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. (2017, May 3). *May 5th as a National Day of Awareness for missing and murdered Native women and girls*. <https://www.niwrc.org/news/may-5th-national-day-awareness-missing-and-murdered-native-women-and-girls>
5. Waddell, B. (2021, November 1). *The link between missing indigenous women and missing data*. US News. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2021-11-01/the-link-between-missing-indigenous-women-and-missing-data>

Created by:

Eleanor Witt
Graduate Research Assistant, and

Teresa Brewington, MBA, MEdL
Coharie (enrolled), Lumbee (descent)
Co-Director, National AI/AN NCTSI

For more information, contact:
Anne Helene Skinstad, PsyD, PhD
Director, National AI/AN NCTSI

IOWA SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



Across the United States, Native women and girls are going missing or murdered at a distressing rate. "Native women face **murder rates more than 10 times the national average**."² As of October 2021, there were **748 cases of missing Indigenous people** recorded in National Missing and Unidentified Persons System database, but it is estimated that the correct number is in the thousands.⁵

COMING SOON:

The **National American Indian/Alaska Native Childhood Trauma TSA Center** will be offering virtual trainings, in-person workshops, and an eLearning course that familiarizes employees and community members with the issue of human trafficking. Topics covered: how to recognize human trafficking situations and what to do to help stop this violation of human rights.