

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women - #MMIW

The **National Crime Information Center** reports that, in **2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing** American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, though the US Department of Justice's federal missing persons database, NamUs, only logged 116 cases.i,ii

The **Center for Disease Control and Prevention** has reported that **murder is the third-leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women** and that rates of violence on reservations can be up **to ten times higher than the national average**.iii

<https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw>

May 5 is the birthday of Hannah Harris, a Cheyenne woman who went missing in 2013.

Across the United States, thousands of native women and girls go missing each year, and most cases remain unsolved. An indigenous woman is 10X more likely to go missing than other persons. Many of these women and girls become victims of human trafficking.

United Methodist can raise awareness in their churches and communities by holding a May 5 event. Red dresses hung on the church grounds represent those who have gone missing.

Designate the month of May as a time of prayer for those missing and for their families. Mother's Day is an excellent time to lift these women in prayer.

MMIW Family Advisors National Week of Action (April 29-May 5,

Here is a [**snapshot of data**](#) for MMIW in 2018:

- **About 4 out of 5 Native women have experienced violence**
- **Native women were about twice as likely than white women to experience violence**
- **Native women face murder rates 10 times the national average**
- **The murder rate for Native women is about 3 times more than that of white women**
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MMIWG = Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

MMIR = Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

MMIP = Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

#MMIW #MMIP #MMIWG #MMIR #NoMoreStolenSisters

<https://www.wernative.org/articles/what-is-the-mmiw-movement>

<https://lakotalaw.org/news/2020-05-01/mmiw-resource-guide>

The MMIW Red Hand

A red hand over the mouth has become the symbol of a growing movement, the MMIW movement. It stands for all the missing sisters whose voices are not heard. It stands for the silence of the media and law enforcement in the midst of this crisis. It stands for the oppression and subjugation of Native women who are now rising up to say #NoMoreStolenSisters.

There are two important days on the calendar for the MMIW cause: February 14 and May 5.

February 14 is MMIW National Day of Action and Awareness. On this day, activist groups organize **Women's Memorial Marches** around the country to protest class disparity, racism, inequality, and violence against Native Americans. The largest march takes place in Vancouver, BC, and has become a central point in the fight against MMIW.

May 5 is the official MMIW Day and is the most widely celebrated across the US and Canada. Every year, there are marches, protests, bike rides, fundraisers, and more to raise awareness for the MMIW cause and fight against the injustice that's happening to Native women and their families every day.

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