

PROMOTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Before it happens, identify which agents and who helps, identify what resources they have, and what advanced crisis training is needed.
- Promote developing consistent law enforcement, state, tribal and community protocols regarding the missing.
- Promote developing and creating a working network with tribe/state and federal when a person goes missing.
- Use tribal community communication resources, law enforcement practices, national registries and what a family can do.
- Use grassroots communication vehicles for education and awareness (tribal radio, PSAs, social media, posters, print).
- Working with media, that they are timely and accurate.
- When a person goes missing, taking fast action is important, as the quicker the response is, the faster they may be located or help provided.

Fostering Support & Awareness Protocols

- Taking the steps to include more awareness on all levels.
- Help families feel in control by letting them make their own decisions, find a safe place to gather and promote support.
- Encourage public hearings and listening sessions to share experiences, concerns and needs regarding public safety & MMIW.
- Organize ways for families to connect with loved ones and friends and make sure they know where to access support and resources.
- Help in community searches and walks.
- Support reform of law enforcement and tribal leader response.
- Encourage development of tribal, state and federal protocols.
- Honor the women, 'say their name', support the families and support community healing.
- Support grassroots movements regarding the missing.



Murdered and Disappeared Native Women is a project of the Native Women's Society of the Great Plains to promote awareness of Native women who have been murdered or disappeared, to strengthen awareness and develop protocol and legislation.



**Native Women's Society
of the Great Plains**
"Reclaiming Our Sacredness"

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- **Creating protocols to address the issue of Murdered and Disappeared Native women in our communities.**

- **A tribal community response plan details how a tribal community will respond to a report of a missing person. The plan is approved by the tribal government and tailored to the specific tribal community.**

- **Understanding the levels of Spectrum of Influence of Murdered and Disappeared Native Women.**

- **Consider reunification, crisis counseling, family assistance center, media, mental health, assistance with medical and funeral costs and donations.**

- **Support making the connections and creating networks for families & communities.**

- **The awareness factor, along with developed, consistent community and law enforcement protocol can effectively address the issue of those who go missing.**

- **Promote the understanding that a lack of effective action is deeply rooted in the historical treatment and negative views towards Native women.**

- **Native women were traditionally tied to the early philosophy that they represented the lifeblood of their respective tribal nations and in order to 'kill the Indian' they were targeted for genocide.**

MISSING AND DISAPPEARED NATIVE WOMEN

The number of missing Native women was addressed in a national study authorized by Congress found that homicide is a leading cause of death among Native females aged 15-34, and that 75 percent were killed by family members or acquaintances (under VAWA 2005). Many cases are in the range of domestic violence.

In Indian country, Native women are murdered at a rate 10 times than the national average. There is not adequate information on the numbers and data of missing Native Women in the United States. Native women go missing and murdered at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.

Preparation is key for tribal communities, anticipate immediate needs for family or community, state victims compensation, criminal justice support, training and technical assistance and spiritual leaders or cultural support.

The Not Invisible Act of 2020 established a joint commission on reducing violence crime against Native people - will hear directly from survivors and provide recommendations for improving response.

Savannah's Act - A bill the requires the Department of Justice to strengthen training, coordination, data collection and other guidelines related to cases of murdered or missing Native Americans.

More than 1 in 2 American Indian Alaskan Native women have experienced physical violence by intimate partners of sexual violence in their lifetime according to a National Institute of Justice report.

Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP) was launched as a pilot project for tribes to provide access to national crime information systems for both criminal and civil purposes.

REPORTING RESOURCES

- Contact your local law enforcement.
- National Crime Information database (NCIC) <https://irp.fas.org/agency/doj/fbi/is/ncic.htm>
- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) Direct public use interface. <https://namus.nij.ojp.gov/>
- Tribal Community Response When a Woman is Missing: A Toolkit for Action (<http://www.niwrc.org/resources/tribal-community-response-when-woman-missing-toolkit-action>)
- If your child is missing: Call local law enforcement first, then call the National Center for Missing Exploited Children 800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)
- USMS Tips <https://www.usmarshalls.gov/tips/index.html>
- Guide For Families of Missing Persons: www.justice.gov/tribal/mmip/resources
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A Snapshot of data from 71 (<https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>)
- America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response: <https://amberalert.ojp.gov/>
- FBI Tipline: <https://tips.fbi.gov>

