

Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

3 PM EST, 12 PST
MAY 5, 2017



Partnering Sister Organizations



- ▶ Alaska Native Women's Resource Center
 - ▶ Healing Native Hearts Coalition
 - ▶ Indian Law Resource
 - ▶ Sacred Hoop Coalition
- ▶ Native Women's Society of the Great Plains
- ▶ National Congress of American Indians



National
Congress of
American
Indians



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



Agenda

- ▶ **Welcome: Cherrah Giles**, Board Chairwoman, NIWRC
- ▶ **Honoring Native Women**
 - ▶ **Carmen O’Leary**, Executive Director, Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains
 - ▶ **Tami Truett Jerue**, Executive Director, Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center
 - ▶ **Shirley Moses**, Director, Healing Native Hearts Coalition
 - ▶ **Patti Larsen**, Director, Sacred Hoop Tribal Coalition
- ▶ **International Recognition:**
 - ▶ **Christopher Foley**, Staff Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center

Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Public Awareness

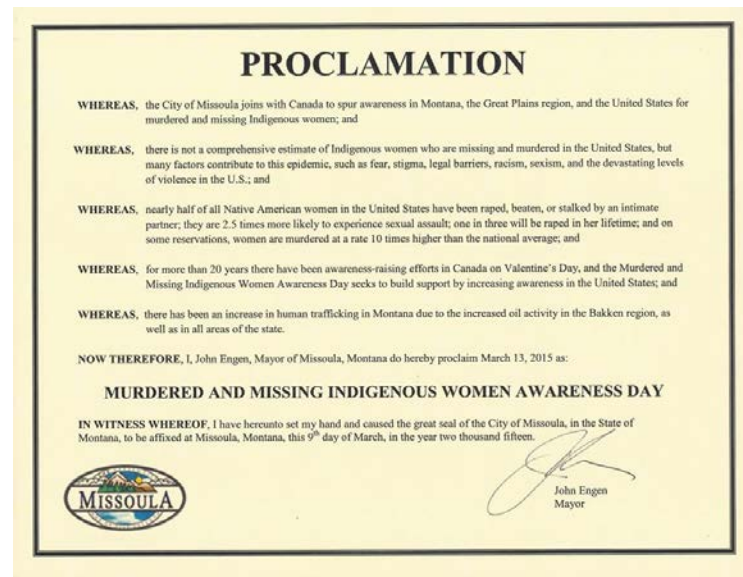


Public Honoring

- ▶ Honor the women
- ▶ Support their loved ones
- ▶ Support community healing

In the United States: An Alarming Pattern

- ▶ Native women are murdered or go missing at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.
- ▶ Many of these cases are part of the spectrum of domestic violence
- ▶ On some reservations women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.
- ▶ Homicide is a leading cause of death of Native women (VAWA).
 - ▶ From 1979 to 1992, third leading cause of death, ages 15 to 34
 - ▶ 75% were killed by family members or acquaintances



Lack of Consequences for Violent Crimes Against Native Women

- ▶ Native women as a population are vulnerable to violent crimes.
- ▶ The National Institute of Justice reports that more than four in five AIAN adults (83 percent) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. Among AIAN women, more than 1 in 2 have experienced physical violence by intimate partners or sexual violence in their lifetime, and more than 1 in 12 have experienced it in the past year.
- ▶ Vulnerability is due in part to the lack of legal consequences reflected in the minimal to zero number of federal prosecutions of domestic violence and sexual assault abusers.
- ▶ Federal Prosecution: Between 2004 and 2007, the United States declined to prosecute 62% of Indian Country criminal cases referred to federal prosecutors, including 72% of child sexual crimes, and 75% of adult rape cases.
- ▶ Due to this reality tribal domestic violence programs are encouraged to have a protocol prepared to respond if a Native woman goes missing.

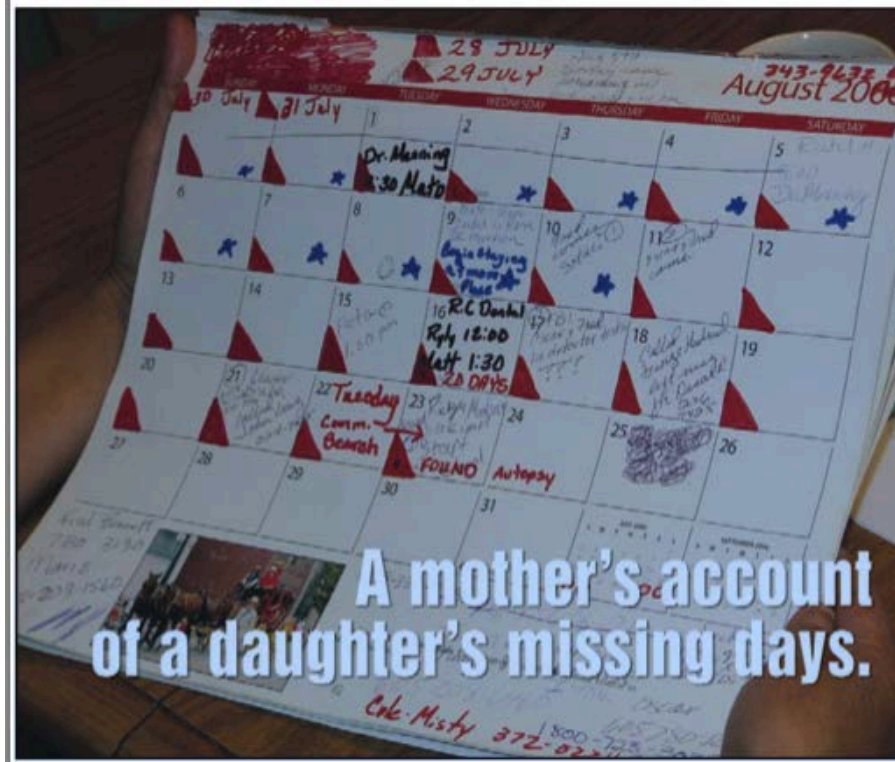
First National
Response by
NCAI Task Force
and
South Dakota
Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

Walk for Justice
Victoria Eagleman
October 6, 2006



A Pattern of Failed Response

- ❖ Native woman is missing
- ❖ Report is made
- ❖ Inadequate response by criminal system
- ❖ Community search
- ❖ Community justice walk



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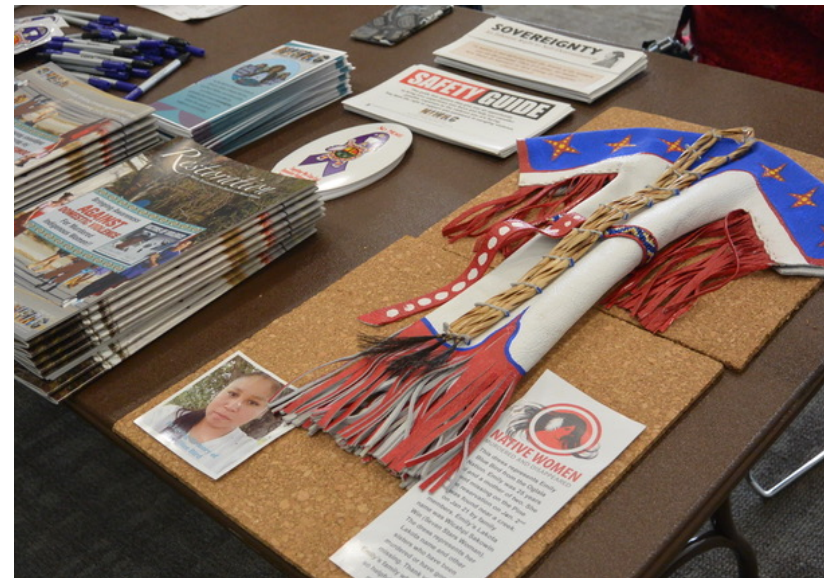
The system is broken. I lost my daughter and I know my granddaughters face the same danger. We all do.

”

—MOTHER OF A MISSING NATIVE WOMAN FOUND MURDERED

The Missing and Murdered Native Women Crisis

Native Women's Society of the Great Plains Carmen O'Leary, Executive Director



Alaska Native Women's Resource Center Tami Truett Jerue, Executive Director

Honoring Our Missing Sisters



Honoring Sophie Ann Sergie



Healing Native Hearts Coalition

Shirley Moses, Executive Director



Efforts to Honor and Respond

- ▶ Producing a film with HomeSpun Pictures
 - ▶ Director, Erica Tremblay, Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- ▶ Our goal is to honor our women
- ▶ Increase awareness and encourage programs to be prepared to respond if a Native woman goes missing
- ▶ And create change so the system's response improves.

Healing Native Hearts obtained a grant from the Seventh Generation Foundation to document the plight of Alaska's epidemic of missing and murdered Alaska Native women and girls. We are collaborating with Alaska Native Women's Resource Center's Executive Director, Tamra Truett Jerue, Yupik Women's Coalition, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center to address the extremely high numbers of our Indigenous Women who have disappeared and remain missing, or murdered.

Sacred Hoop
Coalition
Patti Larsen,
Director

Annual March:
2016 & 2017



February 14th 2017

**2ND ANNUAL MISSING
& MURDERED
INDIGENOUS
WOMEN'S MARCH**

Please Join us

We will gather at One Roof by 4:45 for opening prayers by Millie Richard. The March will then proceed down Lake Ave to the MN Power Plaza where speakers Millie Richard, Babette Sandman, Shannon Smallwood will speak. There will also be an open mic period. Then the march will continue down to the Lake for prayers, tobacco offering and possible Round Dance. Staff carrier Shawn Silly Horse Carr and Hand drum singers will walk with us. Solidarity Shawls will be present in honor of those who have experienced or are still experiencing physical or sexual violence. Transportation back available for Elders and Children.



**Gather at One
Roof Community
Housing located
at 12 East 4th St.**

**Prayers at 4:45 pm
and March at 5 pm**

**Please help us
spread the word
about this
important
community event!**

Sponsored by:

**Mending the Sacred
Hoop, AICHO, Idle No
More, PAVSA, Men as
Peacemakers, &
Hildegard House for
Survivors by
Survivors!**

**CONTACT: MENDING THE
SACRED HOOP**

202 West 2nd St.
Duluth, MN 55802

(218) 623-4667


Mshoop.org

Indian Law Resource Center Christopher Foley, Staff Attorney



- ▶ International Recognition
- ▶ UN Commission on the Status of Women –
59th, 60th, 61st Sessions





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Thank you Feel Free to Contact Us

- Jacqueline Agtuca, Consultant, NIWRC
 - JAgtuca@NIWRC.org
- Rose Quilt, Director Policy and Research, NIWRC
 - RQuilt@NIWRC.org

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
515 Lame Deer Ave. | PO Box 99 (mailing)
Lame Deer, MT 59043
(406) 477-3896 | Toll-Free: (855) 649-7299
NIWRC.org