



MMIW Policy Update September 30, 2021

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A Social Justice Movement



Tillie Black Bear



Emmonak Women's Shelter

Spiritual Foundation of the Movement

"It is our belief that we are spirits on a human journey. In that way, every step we take in our human life is a spiritual act. Every word we speak is a conversation with the creator."

Movement of Resistance

**Native women's domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions & NIWRC
organizing and advocating to end violence against women,
including missing and murdered Indian women**

Sept. 2016, Sacred Stone Camp
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe



The Root of Missing (Abducted) and Murdered Indigenous Women is Colonization and Genocide

MMIW is Part of the Spectrum of Violence Against Native Women

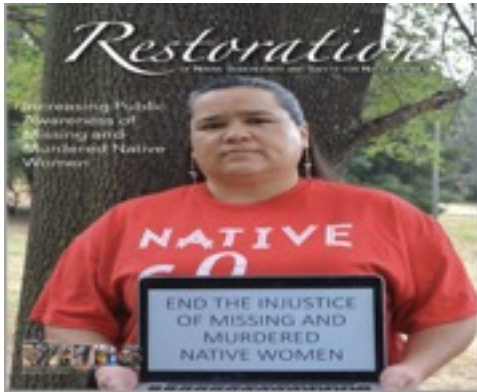


How Has the Movement Accomplished the Gains – Changes in Laws, Policies and Social Norms?

- **Political Clarity** of What is Needed to Create Change
- **Organization & Alliances** to Create Change–
International and Domestic (NCAI and VAW TF)
- Consistent **Indigenous Worldview** of
Sovereignty & Safety for Indian Women
- **Communication Bridge** to Inform Movement–
*Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety
for Native Women Magazine, 2003 - 2021*



Historical MMIW Timeline



1970..

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



Grassroots Advocacy Resulting in Local Legislative Response (Washington State)

- Grassroots & family/community organizing
- Social Media Advocacy
- UIHI Releases MMIW Report: *Our Bodies, Our Stories*
- House Bill 2951 is passed
- WSP releases MMIWG Report
- House Bill 1731 is passed
- Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIW/P) Task Force formed

Grassroots Advocacy Resulting in State & Federal Legislation & International Response

- Senate *May 5th Resolutions* since 2017
- Savanna's Act
- Not Invisible Act
- 2021 Presidential Proclamation
- DOI | Missing and Murdered Unit
- International forums: UN Committee on Civil and Political Rights, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- State Task Force/committees
- State and/or City Resolutions on MMIW



Not Invisible Act

- Congress enacted the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act), Public Law 116-166, 134 Stat. 766 (2020), to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians.
- Commission of 27 members
- The Act aims to improve its efforts to combat the growing crisis of murder, trafficking, and the disappearance of Indigenous men and women.
- Develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to identify, coordinate, and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians.

Savanna's Act

- This bill directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing or murdered Native Americans.
- Aims to improve the response to missing and murdered Native women by
 - improving tribal access to the federal criminal information databases,
 - requiring data collection on missing and murdered Native people, and
 - directing the U.S. Attorneys to develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing persons.

National Congress of American Indians

- NCAI Resolution #PHX-16-077: Addressing Crisis of Missing and Murdered Native Women
- NCAI Resolution #ECWS-20-003: Establishing a Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women as part of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women
- Annual Government-to-Government Tribal Consultations
- NIA Tribal Consultation
- NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Meeting: October 7, 2021

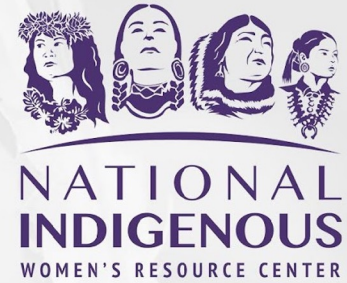
NIWRC and MMIW

- **NCAI presentations, including 2016 Resolution “Addressing the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Native Women”**
- **Annual USDOJ government-to-government consultations**
- **May 5th National Day of Awareness | 2021 May 5th National Week of Action**
 - **MMIW Family Advisory Group**
 - **National Partners (AKNWRC, ILRC, NCAI, ATCEV, StrongHearts Native Helpline, Pouhana)**
- **Restoration Magazine Articles (June edition: pages 44-52)**
- **Social Media Advocacy campaign, including webinars**
- **House & Senate Hearings, Hill briefings & reception**
- **“Conversations with the Field”**
- ***Wind River* screenings w/ educational panels**
- **UN and international advocacy presentations**
- **Awareness activities/marches/California Indian film festival/vigils**
- **Created toolkits, postcards, issued press releases, and interviews with media**
- **Assisted with development of video PSAs and a documentary about missing and murdered Alaska Native women**

NIWRC Resources

- MMIW Toolkits:
- https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/files/reports/Toolkit_MissingAndMurdered.pdf
- https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/images/resource/mmiw_pocket_guide_new.pdf
- <https://www.niwrc.org/restoration-magazine>
- MMIW State Tracker
Link for legislative updates—including updates on the MMIW Legislative Tracker, please join our mailing list and add “Legislative Updates” to your subscription preference.
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Questions?

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