National Briefing—Addressing the National Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women:

Advocacy in Action

APRIL 29, 2021
Partnering Sister Organizations

- Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center
- Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence
- Indian Law Resource Center
- National Congress of American Indians
- Pouhana O Na Wahine
- StrongHearts Native Helpline
National Briefing - Addressing the National Crisis of MMIW: A Call to Action
Moderated by: Amy Sparck (Cup’ik, Alaska), NIWRC Policy Specialist

► Traditional Opening - Juana Majel Dixon (Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians), Tribal Traditional Councilwoman, NCAI Secretary & NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair
► Welcome - Lucy Rain Simpson (Diné), Executive Director, NIWRC
► Members of Congress:
  ► Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
  ► Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Panelists:
► MMIW Family Members Perspective - Patricia Whitefoot (Yakama Nation) - Sister of Daisy Mae Heath
  Yolanda Frazer (Northern Cheyenne) and Grace Bulltail (Crow)- Relatives of Kaycera Stops Pretty Places
► MMIW Tribal Services/Resources Perspective - Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) Director, Stronghearts Native Helpline
► Tribal Justice Perspective - Alfred Urbina (Pascua Yaqui Tribe), Attorney General
► National Tribal Policy Perspective - Kerri Colfer (Tlingit), Senior Native Affairs Advisor, NIWRC
► Closing Remarks - President Shannon Holsey (Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians), NCAI Treasurer & NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair
Traditional Opening: National Briefing to Honor Our Native Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women

Juana Majel Dixon
Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians
Tribal Traditional Councilwoman, Secretary of NCAI, and NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair
Moderated by:
Amy Sparck
(Cup’ik)
NIWRC
Policy Specialist
In the United States: An Alarming Pattern of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

► Native women are murdered and go missing at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.
► Many of these cases are part of the spectrum of violence against Native women.
► On some reservations women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.
► 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) homicide is the third leading cause of death of Native females between ages of 1-44.
Lack of Consequences for Violence Against Native Women

Native women as a population are vulnerable to violent crime.

A National Institute of Justice report found:
- 83 percent of AIAN experienced violence in their lifetime.
- More than 1 in 2 AIAN women have experienced physical violence by intimate partners or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- 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 and sex traffickers.

In the past decade, the DOJ had steadily declined to prosecute over a third of referred cases.

In 2018 consistent from previous years, 65.2% of declinations by federal prosecutors involved categories of physical, sexual assaults, sexual exploitation, or failure to register as a sex offender.
Welcome by
Lucy Rain Simpson
(Diné)
Executive Director
NIWRC
Addressing a Failed Systemic Response

- Native woman is missing
- Report complications
- Inadequate response by criminal system
- Community search for MMIW
- Community walk and other social justice actions
Raising Awareness and Honoring MMIWG
Family and Tribal Community Activism

Public Awareness

Public Honoring

- Honor the women
- Support their loved ones
- Support community healing
Remarks from Members of Congress
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

- Awareness and Response to a National Crisis
- Resolution, Legislation and Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-Nevada)

► Awareness and Response to a National Crisis
► Resolution, Legislation and Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Tribal Perspectives on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Sister Daisy Mae Heath has been missing since 1987.

Daisy Mae’s case is still unsolved.
Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was found murdered in 2019.

Kaysera’s case is still unsolved.
Tribal Services/Resources Perspective
Lori Jump, Director, Stronghearts Native Helpline

- https://strongheartshelpline.org
- 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)
- A 24/7 safe, confidential anonymous domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, offering culturally appropriate support and advocacy
The Pascua Yaqui Tribe was one of the first three in the nation to exercise jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders, following the inclusion of tribal provisions in the VAWA Reauthorization of 2013.
These family member stories are reflective of thousands of cases of MMIWG where insufficient resources, confusion over jurisdiction, and lack of police presence or response hamper efforts to recover victims quickly.
Closing Remarks: National Briefing to Honor Our Native Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women

President Shannon Holsey, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, NCAI Treasurer & NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair
Resources

  [https://www.niwrc.org/restoration-magazine](https://www.niwrc.org/restoration-magazine)

- Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center:  [www.aknwrc.org](http://www.aknwrc.org)

- Indian Law Resource Center:  [www.indianlaw.org](http://www.indianlaw.org)

- National Congress of American Indians:  [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

- Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence:  [http://www.atcev.org](http://www.atcev.org)

- StrongHearts Native Helpline:  [http://www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)

- Pouhana ‘O Na Wahine

- S. 606, designating May 5, 2020, as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls

- Subcommittee Hearing: Unmasking the Hidden Crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW): Exploring Solutions to End the Cycle of Violence

- Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: Missing and Murdered: Confronting the Silent Crisis in Indian Country
  [link](https://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/missing-and-murdered-confronting-silent-crisis-indian-country)

► EXPLORE: NIWRC's Organizing a Groundswell to End the Injustice of Murdered and Disappeared Native Women and Girls in the Advocate! Beyond the Shelter Doors e-newsletter and NIWRC’s Online Resource Library

► DOWNLOAD: Tribal Community Response When a Woman is Missing: A Toolkit for Action from the NIWRC Resource Library


► REPORT: CDC Report | Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6628a1.htm?s_cid=mm6628a1_w
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Thank you
Feel Free to Contact Us

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