Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women National Day of Action: Uplifting the Voices of MMIW Surviving Families

May 5, 2022

Program

Facilitator: Paula S. Julian, Senior Policy Specialist, NIWRC

Traditional Opening: NaniFay Paglinawan and Dolly M.I. Tatofi (Native Hawaiian), Board of Directors, Pouhana ‘O Nā Wahine (Pillars of Women)

MMIW Overview: Cherrah Giles (Muscogee (Creek)), Chair, Board of Directors, NIWRC
Voices of the Families
➤ Malinda Limberhand, Mother of Hanna Harris (*Northern Cheyenne*)
➤ Velina Guy and Tiffany Sorrell, Sister and Daughter of Laverda Guy Sorrell (*Diné*)
➤ Grace Bulltail (*Crow Nation*) and Yolanda Fraser, Aunt and Grandmother of Kaysera Stops Pretty Places (*Northern Cheyenne Tribe*)

Voices of Allies: Organizing for Change Through Running
➤ Jordan Marie Brings Three White Horses Daniel (*Lower Brule Sioux Tribe*), Rising Hearts

Closing Remarks by Cherrah Giles, Chair, Board of Directors, NIWRC


Traditional Opening

NaniFay Paglinawan
*(Native Hawaiian)*
Board of Directors
Pouhana ‘O Nā Wahine
*(Pillars of Women)*

Dolly M.I. Tatofi, MSW, LCSW
*(Native Hawaiian)*
Board of Directors
Pouhana ‘O Nā Wahine
*(Pillars of Women)*
Welcome
Honoring Our Native Women
A National Day of Awareness
May 5th, 2022
Cherrah Giles
NIWRC Board Chair

Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Public Awareness

Public Honoring
► Honor Indigenous women
► Support their loved ones
► Support community healing
► Fulfill responsibilities
► Call for local, national, international changes
An Alarming Pattern of Missing and Murdered in the U.S.

► Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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 6th leading cause of death of Native females between ages of 1-44.

Lack of Consequences for Violent Crimes Against Native Women

► Indigenous women are vulnerable to a wide spectrum of violence often intersecting with cases of MMIW.
► The National Institute of Justice reports that more than four in five AI/AN adults (83 percent) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.
► Among AI/AN 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 low number of federal prosecutions of domestic violence and sexual assault abusers and sex traffickers.
► Vulnerability is also due in part to the lack of tribal specific services for Native women and the lack of full authority to protect Native women
► Due to this reality Indian tribes and Indigenous communities must be prepared to respond if a woman goes missing.
A Pattern of Failed Systemic Response

❖ Native woman is missing
❖ Report is made
❖ Inadequate response by criminal system
❖ Community search for MMIW
❖ Community walks and other social justice actions

Honoring Indigenous women who are missing and/or have been murdered, including those named here. We thank NIWRC’s Family Advisors for sharing their memories with us.
Malinda Limberhand
Northern Cheyenne Nation

- A National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls
- May 5th is the birthday of my daughter Hanna Harris who went missing on July 4, 2013 and was murdered
- Organize for changes needed at the tribal, state, and national level
- Increase public awareness: wear red, post your efforts on social media
- Honor our Native women and girls
Organizing for Changes Needed

Organize for the changes needed at the tribal, state, and national levels
Wear red and post on social media to call for changes needed

#MMIWGTakeAction #NoMoreStolenSisters #MMIWG

“As a mother, nothing will replace the loss of my daughter but by organizing to support the National Day of Awareness and creating the changes needed I know it will help others. And Hanna and so many others will not be forgotten.”

-Malinda Limberhand
Hanna Harris
Northern Cheyenne
2013
Solved, missing & murdered

Velina Guy & Tiffany Sorrell
Navajo Nation
Laverda’s Family

Laverda Sorrell: Missing since July 4, 2002
Laverda Sorrell
Diné
2002
Unsolved, missing

Grace Bulltail and Yolanda Fraser
Crow Nation and Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Justice for Kaysera

Kaysera Stops Pretty Places
Crow/Northern Cheyenne
2019 unsolved, murdered
Voices of Allies: Organizing for Change Through Running
Jordan Marie Brings Three White Horses Daniel
Lower Brule Sioux Nation

Running For Justice

“A proud Lakota winyan, running for justice, helping to organize for our communities & elevate our voices.”
- Jordan Marie Daniel
Closing Remarks

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

RESOURCES


• Webinar: Introducing A Tribal Safe Housing Center https://n8ve.net/wmFbv

• Restoration Article: Coming Soon: The Tribal Safe Housing Center https://n8ve.net/wBqMG

► Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center: https://www.aknwrc.org/resources/aknwrc-resources/mmiw-resources/

► Indian Law Resource Center: http://www.indianlaw.org/

► National Congress of American Indians: http://www.ncai.org/

► ATCEV: http://www.atcev.org/

► StrongHearts Native Helpline: http://www.strongheartshelpline.org/

► Jordan’s website: www.jordanmariedaniel.com
RESOURCES


► Brochure: When a Loved One Goes Missing - A Quick Reference Guide for What to Do in the First 72 Hours

► Pocket Guide: When a Loved One Goes Missing - Understanding and Responding to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

► Poster: Jurisdiction and Crime Victims’ Rights

TRADITIONAL CLOSING
Juana Majel Dixon
Pauma-Yuima Band of Luiseño Indians
Traditional Councilwoman and
NCAI Violence Against Women
Task Force Co-chair
The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center's participation in this webinar was supported by Grant Number 90EV0533 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.


Thank you
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