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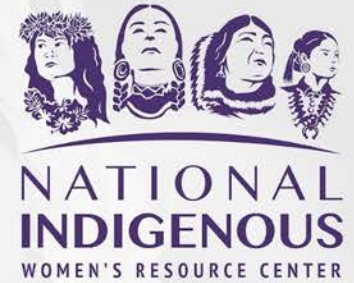
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# **Virtual Conversations with the Field: *Developing Advocacy Responses to MMIW***

*Sept. 29, 2021*

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**If at any point during this session you need culturally-appropriate advocacy or support, please contact Stronghearts Native Helpline:**

**1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483) or  
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# Welcome!

**What you can expect from our time together today:**

- ▶ **Traditional welcome and Introductions**
- ▶ **Overview of the specific conversation topic**
- ▶ **Conversation**
- ▶ **Summary of Conversation**
- ▶ **Closing**



# Overview

## *Resources*

### **MMIW Toolkits**

[https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/files/reports/Toolkit\\_MissingAndMurdered.pdf](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/sites/default/files/images/resource/mmiw_pocket_guide_new.pdf)

<https://www.niwrc.org/restoration-magazine>

# 1

## What we know/understand about this topic:



### MMIW IS PREVENTABLE

The justice system chronically fails Native women

- law enforcement - inadequate staffing, lack of training/policies/procedures, officer killings of Native women
- Federal Prosecution: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/tribal-law-and-order-act>. Declination rates remained relatively steady between 2011-2018.  
2018 – 39%    2017 – 37%                      2016 – 34%                      2011 – 38%
- In 2018 consistent from previous years, federal prosecutors declined 65.2% involved categories of physical and sexual assaults, sexual exploitation, or failure to register as a sex offender.

VAWA 2013 returned limited SDVCJ over non-Natives who commit DV and protection order violations

# 2

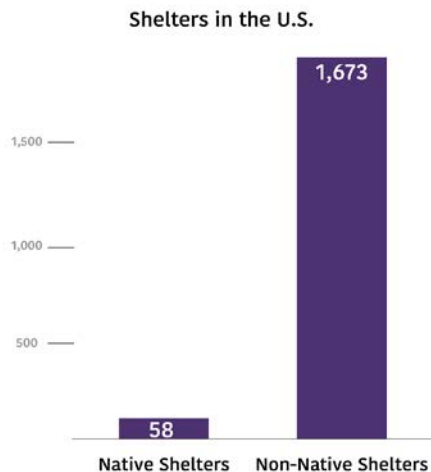
## What we know/understand about this topic:



**“Services are very thin on the ground in Indian Country.”**

- VC W. Schlater, March 2021 House Hearing

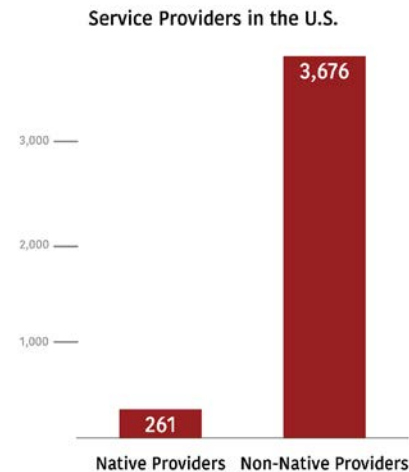
There are only 58 Native domestic violence shelters nationwide for 574 federally recognized Indian tribes.



Reauthorize #FVPSA. Increase Tribal Set-Aside.

Source: Resource Directory Summary, StrongHearts Native Helpline

More than 1 in 3 Native female victims of violence face unmet service needs.



Reauthorize #FVPSA. Increase Tribal Set-Aside.

Source: Resource Directory Summary, StrongHearts Native Helpline, Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men, National Institute of Justice



# 2

## What we know/understand about this topic:



### **2016 NIJ report**

83 percent of AI/AN experienced violence in their lifetime.

More than 1 in 2 AI/AN 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.



# 3

## What we know/understand about this topic



Families and Tribal Programs too often are left to organize and conduct search and rescues for their missing or murdered loved ones.



**NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS**  
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

# Conversation



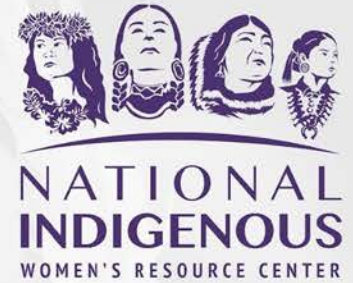
## Discussion questions

- ▷ How can we prevent MMIW?
- ▷ Why develop a response before confronted with an MMIW?
- ▷ How can advocates support families?
  - When justice system is investigating
  - When/If justice system says no crime has been committed



# Summary and Key Takeaways

Please note: NIWRC will provide on-going summaries of  
“Conversations with the Field”



# Thank you for your participation!

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