



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Indigenous people are far more likely to experience violence, be murdered, or go missing compared with other demographic groups in Minnesota, and continue to have among the highest rates of murder and exploitation per capita in Minnesota's urban, rural, and reservation population, disappearing at alarming rates with very little public visibility or justice; and
- WHEREAS: There is no comprehensive estimate for the number of Indigenous people who have been lost to violence since the beginning of colonization; and
- WHEREAS: This is a long-term and ongoing crisis that affects Indian Country across the United States, and the most comprehensive report, released by the National Institute of Justice in May 2016, showed more than four in five American Indian women have experienced violence in their lifetime and more than half have experienced sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS: Although they make up just one percent of Minnesota's population, Indigenous women and girls account for 10 percent of the missing females in the state; the number of missing American Indian women and girls ranged from 27 to 54 in any given month during the past decade; and
- WHEREAS: According to a 2020 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide was in the top ten leading causes of death in the United States for American Indian males one to 54 years old and American Indian males had the second highest rate of homicide compared with males in all other racial and ethnic groups; and
- WHEREAS: The history of settler colonization and ongoing systemic racism, historical trauma, sexism, and sexual objectification of Indigenous relatives have increased the prevalence and impact of the underlying causes of violence — including poverty, homelessness, housing instability, justice system involvement, food insecurity, mental health instability, and substance use disorders — for Native Americans compared to non-Native Americans; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota recognizes the sovereignty and role of the 11 sovereign Tribal Nations that share geography with Minnesota; law enforcement and agencies at local, state, Tribal, and federal levels; community-based organizations; and all advocates dedicated to ending this crisis; and
- WHEREAS: In 2019 the Minnesota Legislature created the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force and in 2021, Minnesota established the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR), dedicated to reducing and ending violence against all Indigenous people in our state and reaffirming the commitment to addressing systemic causes behind the disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous relatives; and
- WHEREAS: In 2023, Minnesota created the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag reward account for relevant information supporting the investigation of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives; and
- WHEREAS: While there has been progress in addressing the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives across Minnesota, continued education and action are necessary to understand and address the root causes of violence; and
- WHEREAS: This day encourages all people in Minnesota to stand in solidarity with Indigenous victims, survivors, families, and communities disproportionately impacted by violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 5, 2025, as:

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 5th day of May.




GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE