

The Picture Project

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People



INTRODUCTION

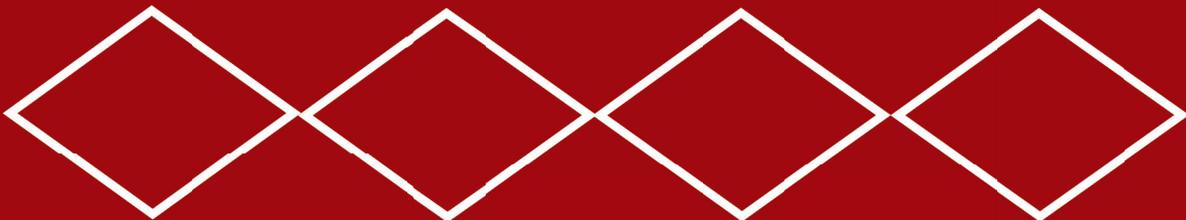
Ittafamah means to come together in my Choctaw language. We, as Indigenous People, come together in unity to help one another. It is important that we stand as one to help spread awareness to the social issues that Indigenous people face. Our culture and traditions such as our language, beadwork, clothing, pottery, basketry, and storytelling are tools that can help ignite our voices.

My time with the Remembering Our Sisters Fellowship program has made an incredible impact on me. I was someone who did not have much experience on advocating or even knew where to start. I had the pleasure to learn from other artists. It is imperative that we continue to educate ourselves on the topic but use our voices to help bring awareness to those affected by this epidemic.

THE MOVEMENT

Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ people experience violence, sexual assault, go missing and are murdered at the highest rates of any ethnic group. This epidemic is know as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ Crisis.

Our people faced this epidemic back when the first contact was made. It is important that we continue to our advocate people because it is a real issue in our communities.







RESOURCES

Websites

- *National Indigenous Women's Resource Center*
<https://www.niwrc.org/policy-center/mmiw>
- *Native Hope*
<https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw>
- *Bureau of Indian Affairs*
<https://www.bia.gov/service/mmu/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people-crisis>
- *Urban Indian Health Institute*
<https://www.uihi.org/resources/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-girls/>
- *Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women*
<https://www.csvanw.org/mmiw/>
- *U.S. Department of the Interior: Secretary Haaland*
<https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american>
- *Native Womens Wilderness*
<https://www.nativewomenswilderness.org/mmiw>
- *U.S. Department of Justice*
<https://www.justice.gov/tribal/mmip>
- *United South and Eastern Tribes, INC.*
<https://www.usetinc.org/resources/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women/>

Podcasts

- TAKEN The Podcast
- We are Resilient: An MMIW True Crime Podcast
- Missing and Murdered: Finding Cleo

Films

- Highway of Tears
- Somebody's Daughter



As of 2016, the National Crime Information Center reports that there were 5,712 missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls reports. The U.S. Department of Justice's federal missing person database only logged 116 cases.

Source: The National Crime Information Center

MURDER

is the third leading cause of death for native women

Source: Urban Indian Health Institute

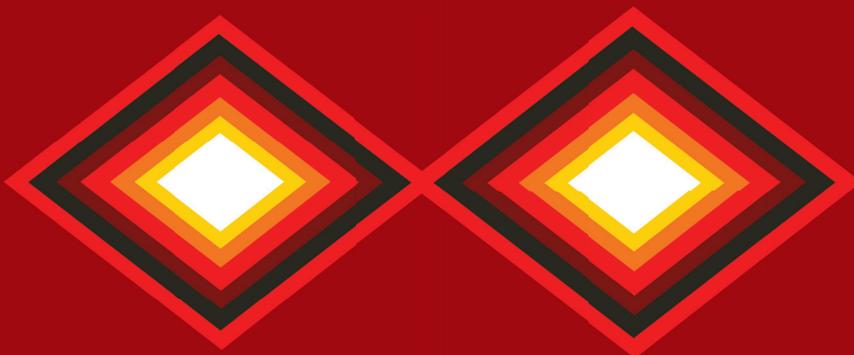
*More than **4 out of 5** Indigenous Women have experienced violence (84.3%)*

Source: National Institute of Justice Report

Policy Initiatives

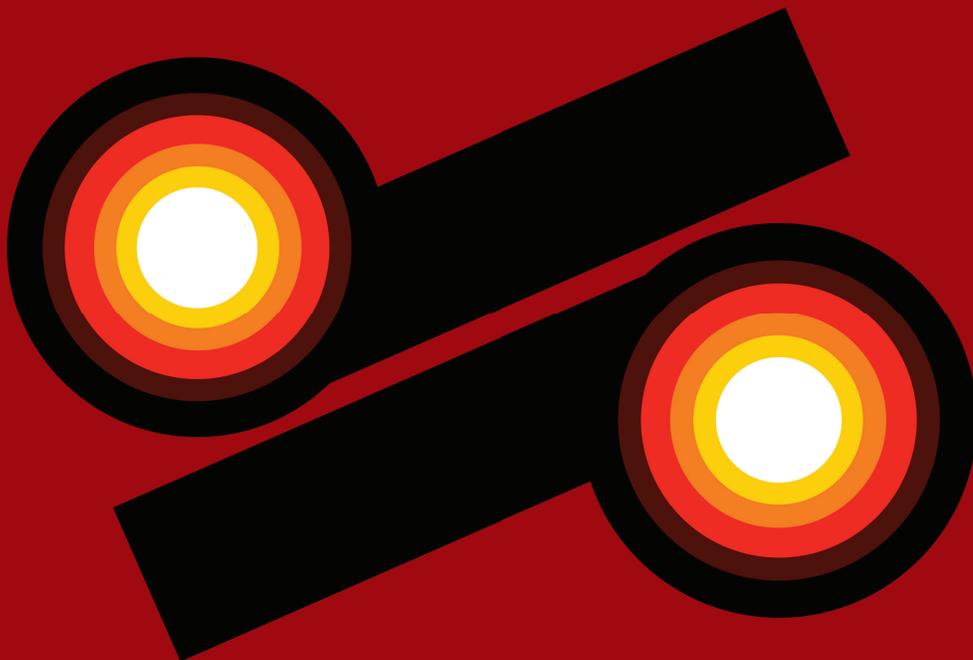
- **May 5th, -- The White House proclamation officially designated as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls**
- **Executive Order 13898, Operation Lady Justice, creates a task force for missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native peoples that will address the concerns of indigenous communities in the U.S. such as data collection, policies, establish cold-case teams, and improve investigative responses**
- **Savanna's Act -- Became a law and requires the Department of Justice to review , revise and develop policies and protocols to address MMIP cases.**





Toolkits and Guides

- **When a Loved One Goes Missing: Understanding and Responding to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**
<https://www.niwrc.org/resources/pocket-guide/when-loved-one-goes-missing-understanding-and-responding-crisis-missing-and>
- **When a Loved One Goes Missing: Resources for Families of Missing American and Alaska Native Adults**
<https://www.justice.gov/file/1562871/download>
- **Using Art for Activism**
<https://www.cnay.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Using-Art-for-Activism-Toolkit-4.pdf>
- **MMIWG: We Demand More**
<https://www.uihi.org/resources/mmiwg-we-demand-more/>
- **Tribal Community Response When a Woman Is Missing: A Toolkit for Action**
https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/files/reports/Toolkit_MissingAndMurdered.pdf



Acknowledgments

The Picture Project was created to help spread awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit+ epidemic. I wanted to share the knowledge I gained while participating in this nine-month fellowship. Many heartfelt moments were created behind-the-scenes. Each picture holds a memory that I will hold close to my heart because not only was it empowering but educational as well. I thank those who contributed their time and effort, without you all, this project wouldn't have been possible.

This program has brought me new perspectives and amazing friendships. I am so happy I get to work with such talented and empowering women. I thank each of you for your kindness, wisdom and laughs. You all welcomed me with open arms and it truly made this experience a memorable one.

Lastly, Yakoki to you, the reader. As I created this project, my main objective was to share every bit of knowledge I have gained about the movement. It's amazing to see how art can be a resourceful tool in activism.

If you would like more information about the Remembering Our Sisters Fellowship, please scan the QR Code. Please feel free to share The Picture Project and the other Fellows' projects as well.

YAKOKI,

Autumn McMillan



