POLICY GUIDEBOOK

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REMEMBERIING OUR SISTERS FELLOWSHIP



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INTRODUCTION

This project is reflected on my multi-tribal background and incorporates my interest in policy and advocacy to help provide templates and guides for policy recommendations within three states. This project highlights information and research gathered throughout the three states and certain tribes about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+) crisis

This was chosen to highlight the work that is being done throughout Indian Country and what other steps can be taken to have legislation in every state to help protect and prevent MMIWG2S+.



KWASU’U(N)

Dress, Shoshone Language, Duck Valley, NV

SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES OF THE DUCK VALLEY RESERVATION
PROPOSED TRIBAL POLICY RECOMMENDATION AND RESOLUTION

Resolution Number: To be assigned by the Tribal Business Council
TITLE: A Resolution to Begin Tribal Policy and Legislation Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+)
Submitted By: [Name, department, committee, organization, or community member]
Date Submitted: [Insert date]
Referred To: [Appropriate Tribal Business Council committee or department]

WHEREAS

WHEREAS, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation is a sovereign Tribal Nation with the authority to develop policies and laws to protect the safety, health, and well-being of its citizens and community, consistent with its Constitution and applicable law; and

WHEREAS, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+) is a serious concern affecting Indigenous individuals, families, and communities, including those who face barriers when reporting a missing relative, seeking information, or accessing support; and

WHEREAS, families affected by these cases may face challenges involving jurisdiction, communication, law enforcement coordination, access to information, and culturally appropriate services and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Duck Valley Reservation spans Nevada and Idaho, making coordination among Tribal, state, local, and federal agencies important when responding to cases that cross jurisdictional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, reviewing existing Tribal laws, policies, programs, and resources, including relevant victim services and violence-prevention programs, can help identify what is already in place and what additional support may be needed; and

WHEREAS, involving Tribal citizens, affected families, survivors, cultural knowledge holders, Tribal departments, law enforcement, and community service providers can help ensure that a future policy reflects the needs and priorities of the Duck Valley community; now

RESOLVED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation supports beginning the development of a tribal policy addressing MMIWG2S+, with the goal of creating a foundation for future Tribal legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council is requested to determine the appropriate process for reviewing this recommendation and involving relevant Tribal departments, committees, and legal counsel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy-development process should review existing Tribal laws, policies, programs, and resources, along with relevant Nevada, Idaho, and federal laws, to identify gaps and opportunities to improve the response to MMIWG2S+; and

B**E IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tribes should consider establishing an MMIWG2S+ coordinator, working group, or other appropriate structure to support policy development, community engagement, and coordination, subject to available resources and required approvals; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution begins the process of developing a tribal MMIWG2S+ policy and possible future legislation. It does not, by itself, enact a comprehensive MMIWG2S+ law, create a new department, approve funding, or establish new legal duties.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was considered and adopted by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Tribal Business Council on ____, in accordance
Authorized Tribal Representative
Title: _____
Date: _____
Resolution Number: _____



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ONEIDA NATION OF WISCONSIN
PROPOSED TRIBAL POLICY RESOLUTION

Resolution Number: To be assigned by the Oneida Nation
TITLE: A Resolution to Initiate Development of Tribal Policy and Future Legislation Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+)

WHEREAS, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin is a sovereign Indigenous nation with inherent rights of self-government and the authority to establish laws and policies to protect the health, safety, welfare, and well-being of its citizens and community; and
WHEREAS, the Oneida Nation recognizes the profound and lasting impacts of missing and murdered Indigenous people on families, survivors, and Indigenous communities, and the need for coordinated prevention, timely response, effective investigations, capacity building, family support, accurate data collection, and collaboration among tribal, local, county, state, and federal agencies, as appropriate; and
WHEREAS, Indigenous families may face barriers related to jurisdiction, communication, access to information, culturally appropriate services, and available resources when a relative goes missing or is murdered; and
WHEREAS, the Oneida Nation recognizes the importance of treating affected families and survivors with dignity, compassion, respect, and cultural understanding, while protecting sensitive information, respecting privacy, and supporting tribal data sovereignty; and
WHEREAS, the development of a tribal MMIWG2S+ policy should reflect the sovereignty, cultural values, priorities, and needs of the Oneida Nation and identify gaps in existing laws, policies, programs, resources, responsibilities, and intergovernmental coordination; now
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida Nation supports initiating the development of a tribal policy addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+), establishing a foundation for future tribal legislation focused on prevention, response, family and survivor support, coordination, and accountability; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate Oneida Nation legislative body and designated tribal departments or committees shall determine the appropriate process for reviewing this recommendation, including holding community discussion sessions before advancing proposed policy or legislation for consideration and adoption; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy-development process shall include a review of existing Oneida Nation laws, policies, programs, resources, jurisdictional considerations, and opportunities for intergovernmental coordination with other Wisconsin Tribal Nations and the State of Wisconsin, as appropriate; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oneida Nation shall consider establishing a dedicated department or other appropriate organizational structure with designated staff and resources to coordinate MMIWG2S+-related policy development, community engagement, and future implementation, subject to the Nation's applicable approval and budgetary processes; and
B**E IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this resolution establishes a policy direction to initiate development of a Tribal MMIWG2S+ policy and potential future legislation and does not, by itself, enact a comprehensive MMIWG2S+ law or create new enforceable duties beyond those established under existing law.

CERTIFICATION
The foregoing resolution was considered and adopted by the appropriate governing body of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin on _____, with a quorum present, in accordance with the Nation's applicable governing and legislative procedures.

Authorized Oneida Nation Representative
Title: _____
Date: _____



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POLICY RECOMMENDATION

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OF OKLAHOMA
PROPOSED TRIBAL POLICY RESOLUTION

Resolution Number: To be assigned by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council
TITLE: A Resolution to Begin Developing a Tribal Policy and Future Law Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+)

WHEREAS

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a sovereign Tribal Nation with the authority to create laws and policies to protect the safety and well-being of its citizens and community; and

WHEREAS, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+) is a crisis that affects Indigenous individuals, families, and communities, including those who face barriers when reporting a missing relative, seeking information, or getting support; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation recognizes the importance of supporting affected families and survivors, protecting sensitive information, and making sure community members are treated with respect and compassion; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's Constitution, Code Annotated, and existing programs should be reviewed to identify what protections are already in place and what gaps need to be addressed; and

WHEREAS, working with Muscogee citizens, affected families, survivors, cultural knowledge holders, Lighthorse Police, Tribal departments, and other appropriate partners can help shape a policy that reflects the Nation's needs and values; now

RESOLVED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation supports beginning the development of a tribal policy addressing MMIWG2S+, with the goal of creating a foundation for future tribal legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Council is requested to determine the appropriate process for reviewing this recommendation and involving the relevant committees, Tribal departments, and legal counsel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nation review its existing laws, policies, programs, and resources, along with relevant Oklahoma and federal laws, to identify gaps and opportunities to improve its response to MMIWG2S+; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that community discussion sessions and other appropriate opportunities be considered so citizens, affected families, survivors, and community members can share their experiences and recommendations before future policy or legislation is considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed policy consider:
Preventing violence and raising community awareness.
Improving missing-person response and case coordination.
Supporting affected families and survivors through communication, advocacy, and culturally appropriate services.
Improving coordination with tribal, local, state, and federal agencies, where appropriate.
Protecting private information and respecting Tribal data sovereignty.
Identifying needed staff, training, funding, and resources.
Establishing ways to review progress and measure the policy's effectiveness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nation consider establishing an MMIWG2S+ coordinator, working group, or other appropriate structure to help develop and carry out the policy, depending on available resources and required approvals; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution begins the process of developing an MMIWG2S+ policy and possible future tribal legislation. It does not, by itself, create a new law, establish a new department, approve funding, or create new legal duties.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was considered and adopted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council on _____, in accordance with the Nation's Constitution and applicable legislative procedures.

Authorized Representative
Title: _____
Date: _____
Resolution Number: _____

TEMPLATE

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OF OKLAHOMA
[NAME OF TRIBAL NATION]
PROPOSED TRIBAL POLICY RECOMMENDATION AND RESOLUTION
Resolution Number: To be assigned by [Tribal legislative body]
TITLE: A Resolution to Initiate Development of a Tribal Policy and Future Legislation Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+)
Submitted By: [Name, department, committee, organization, or community member]
Date Submitted: [Insert date]
Referred To: [Appropriate tribal legislative body or committee]

WHEREAS

[Name of Tribal Nation] is a sovereign Tribal Nation with inherent rights of self-government and the authority to establish laws and policies in accordance with its Constitution, governing documents, applicable federal law, and other relevant legal authorities; and

RESOLVED CLAUSES

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

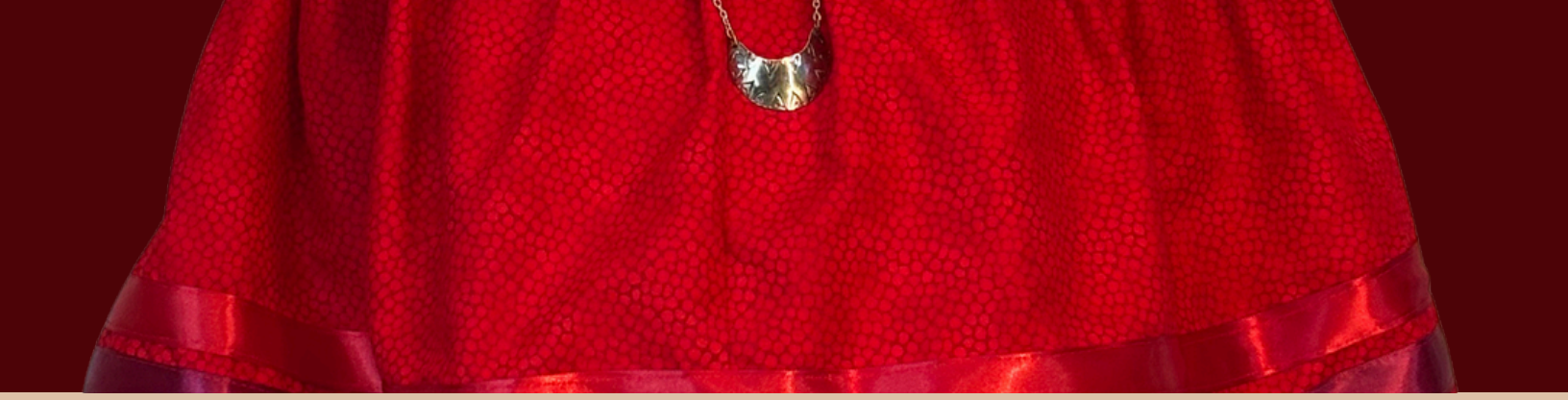
that [Name of Tribal Nation] supports initiating the development of a tribal policy addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+), with the goal of establishing a foundation for future tribal legislation focused on prevention, response, family and survivor support, coordination, and accountability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was considered and adopted by [Name of Tribal Nation's authorized governing body] on _____, in accordance with the Nation's governing documents and applicable legislative procedures.
Authorized Tribal Representative
Title: _____
Date: _____
Resolution Number: _____

Link to template



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links:

- CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS of the SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES
- https://oneida-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2015-06-16-Tribal-Constitution.pdf
- https://www.muscogeenation.com/government/

U.S. Department of Justice:
Guide to Developnming a Tribal Community Reponse Plan for Missing Persons Case:

- https://www.justice.gov/tribal/page/file/1561361/dl?inline
- https://www.justice.gov/tribal/mmip/tribal-community-response-plans

Oklahome Resources:

- Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee out of the office of the Attonery General

YAW^KO/MVTO

This policy handbook and resource guide was created to help those that want their Tribe or Nation take action to create legislation for the MMIWG2S+ epidemic. I am grateful for the opporitunity to learn and create a guide for many. It has been wonderful to be supported by Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) and the other women in my fellowship.

Once again, I hope this resource guide helps indivduials around Indian Country to invite change and demand for legislation to be introduced and passed within their Tribe or Nation.

Best,
Sadie Hill Kelley