

2022 National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Social Media Toolkit

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Background: What is the National Week of Action for MMIW?

In response to the family's actions and demands for justice following the disappearance and murder of Hanna Harris at the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 2013, the Montana Congressional Delegation led the work to pass the first Senate resolution declaring May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls (MMIWG) in 2017.

Despite this declaration on May 5th, 2017, Native women continue to go missing and are murdered at alarming rates. The ongoing injustice of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) is the culmination of a spectrum of violence and neglect perpetrated disproportionately against Indigenous women—it reflects the intersection of genocide, colonization, and violence against women, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, forced sterilization, and trafficking. These crimes occur due to a long history of government laws, policies, practices, and programs that continue to this day and create conditions that increase Indigenous women's vulnerability.

In response, Native families and Indigenous communities across Alaska, the lower 48 states and Hawaii are calling for justice and reforms to dismantle the systemic barriers impacting the safety of Native women and to increase support for protections as defined by Indigenous voices, languages, and teachings. These Indigenous calls against such violence date as far back as first contact with Western governments and are reflected in Indigenous acts of resistance and self-defense throughout history. Turning our grief into action, we call upon federal, state, Tribal, local, and international policymakers to address the foundational reforms required to address MMIW beyond individual cases.

We urge the United States, Tribal, state, and local governments to reaffirm and support Indigenous protective systems as outlined by our national partner collective in our *6-Point Action Plan to Reform Current Systemic Barriers and Restore Safety of Indigenous Women*. The crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women must continue to be brought into the public's awareness to increase the accountability of social, health, educational, military, religious, political, economic, and government systems and responses.

We call on the mainstream and local media to avoid harm and be culturally sensitive and transparent when building relationships with families impacted by MMIW. If they cause harm unintentionally, we call on media to take immediate steps to apologize and change so as not to repeat harmful practices. Indigenous women and girls deserve to have their humanity respected when the media share their stories, and their families must be treated with the utmost respect and compassion. Missing and murdered Indigenous women and their families deserve justice and to have their truths told.

The National Partners Work Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and the MMIW Family Advisors have organized a National Week of Action (April 29-May 5, 2022) to call the nation and the world to action in honor of missing and murdered Indigenous women. This week-long campaign provides a process for inspiring public healing

and compelling accountability for this injustice and honors those who have gone missing or been murdered. It is essential on the broadest level to acknowledge the historic and ongoing, current human suffering and death that global colonization has brought to Indigenous women.

Systemic changes are needed across all systems and sectors of societies–including the public (governmental), private (business/corporations), nonprofit, educational, military, religious, health care, and mainstream media sectors.

We must tell policymakers at the federal, Tribal, state, local, and international levels and communities around the world that enough is enough. Join our united call to action and help grow the groundswell of our grassroots movement to hold ourselves and all systems and sectors of our societies accountable!

Violence against Indigenous women is preventable. We call on all those concerned for the safety of Native women to organize at the local, Tribal, state, national, and international levels to support the 2022 National Week of Action for MMIW culminating in a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women on May 5, 2022.

(*Adapted from "A Call to Action", Restoration Special Edition on MMIW*)

Background: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FVPSA is the only federal funding source supporting immediate shelter and supportive services and is the primary source of funding for these services for federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. FVPSA mandates that "not less than 10 percent" of the annual appropriation shall be used to support Indian tribes to achieve the purposes of the legislation.

FVPSA provides core funding for Indian Tribes to offer a spectrum of services, including shelter, safety planning, counseling, legal services, childcare and services for children, career planning, life skills training, community education and public awareness, and other necessities for victims of domestic violence, such as clothing, food, and transportation. And yet, the critical needs of survivors continue to outpace FVPSA funded services' capacity and reach, particularly in Tribal communities where Native women face a disproportionate rate of domestic violence. Currently, fewer than half of all federally recognized Tribes receive FVPSA funding.

Since 2015, a coalition of national Native organizations—including the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, National Congress of American Indians, StrongHearts Native Helpline, and the Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence (ATCEV)—has worked closely with congressional champions to draft and introduce an enhanced version of a bill to reauthorize FVPSA.

FVPSA reauthorization passed the House of Representatives (H.R. 2119) on October 26, 2021. We now urge the Senate to pass the reauthorization of FVPSA through S. 1275. The FVPSA would expand grant programs and make many needed improvements so that more survivors have access to support and safety, including:

- Given the unique federal trust responsibility to Indian Tribes, adjustment of the funding distribution formula to increase the amount that Tribes receive from 10% to 12.5%;
- Dedicated funding for nonprofit Tribal coalitions to provide culturally-appropriate technical assistance and training to Tribes;
- Permanent funding for the national Indian domestic violence hotline;
- Permanent funding for the Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence to reduce disparities facing Native victims; and
- Permanent funding for the Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

How To Take Action:

During the 2022 Week of Action for MMIW, we must call on the Senate to enact meaningful change through S.1275 to reauthorize FVPSA with the crucial Tribal improvements.

- **Take Action! Send a letter every day to your Senator and share this campaign until the Senate passes S.1275—Write Congress: Reauthorize FVPSA!**

Background: Savanna's Act

Savanna's Act (The Act) became law on October 10, 2020. The bill is named after Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a member of the Spirit Lake Nation of North Dakota, who was murdered while she was eight months pregnant in August 2017. She was 22 years old.

The Act aims to improve data collection of missing or murdered Native Americans, clarify the responsibilities of Tribal, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies responding to cases of missing or murdered Native Americans, and empower Tribal governments with resources and information necessary to effectively respond to such cases. The Act also directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing and murdered Native Americans.

Savanna's Act aims to improve the response to missing and murdered Native Americans by requiring the DOJ to:

- Provide training to law enforcement agencies on how to record Tribal enrollment for victims in federal databases.
- Develop and implement a strategy to educate the public on the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).
- Conduct specific outreach to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations regarding the ability to publicly enter information through NamUs or other non-law enforcement sensitive portal.
- Develop regionally appropriate guidelines for response to cases of missing or murdered Native Americans.
- Provide training and technical assistance to Tribes and law enforcement agencies for implementation of the developed guidelines.
- Report statistics on missing or murdered Native Americans.

Why is Savanna's Act Important?

According to a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Department of Justice (DOJ) has taken *some steps* to analyze data in federal databases related to cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women, including publishing more detailed single-year statistics in 2020 on missing persons by race, gender, and age. **However, data analyses efforts are in the early stages, and DOJ does not have a plan to continue these efforts past November 2021.**

How To Take Action:

A lack of accurate and comprehensive data on MMIW keeps Native women invisible. We must hold the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) accountable to their obligations under Savanna's Act. The FBI and DOJ must ensure collecting data improves and is continued under Savanna's Act.

- **Act Now! Tag the DOJ and FBI on social media and demand that they improve the collection of MMIW data under Savanna's Act!** (**View sample posts**)

Background: Not Invisible Act (NIA)

The Not Invisible Act of 2019 (NIA) became law on October 10, 2020. The Not Invisible Act complements Savanna's Act, with its purpose to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians through the creation of a joint commission. In addition, the Department of the Interior (DOI) must designate an official within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to coordinate prevention efforts, grants, and programs related to missing Indians and the murder and human trafficking of Indians.

NIA aims to address the crisis of missing, murdered, and trafficked American Indians and Alaska Natives by engaging law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, and service providers, as well as improving coordination across federal agencies. The bill also mandates the creation of an advisory committee on violent crime within Indian lands and against American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The committee is to be composed of Tribal leaders, law enforcement, federal partners, service providers, and survivors. It is tasked with making recommendations to the DOI and Department of Justice (DOJ) on combating violence against American Indians and Alaska Natives including:

- Administrative changes to identify, report, and respond effectively to cases of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking of American Indians within Indian lands.
- Best practices for Tribal, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to follow in combating violent crime against Indians within Indian lands, including missing persons, murder, and human trafficking.
- Guidance on how to address any gaps in services for Indian victims of violent crime.

Why is the NIA Important?

As of April 2022, the DOI and DOJ have not announced the Commission or released the status of the NIA and its Commission. The DOJ and DOI's silence and lack of regular communication is the same as the unacceptable silence and lack of communication of law enforcement that family members face when their loved one goes missing. Native families cannot wait. How many more Indigenous women have to go missing?

How To Take Action:

The DOI and DOJ must take immediate action.

- **Take Action! Tag the DOJ, the DOI, and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland on social media and demand that they immediately implement the Not Invisible Act!** (**View sample posts**)

Social Media

Hashtags to use throughout the week:

#MMIWActionNow

#NoMoreStolenSisters

#MMIW

Shareable Graphics

Instagram/Facebook

Twitter

Sample Facebook and Instagram Posts

MMIW Awareness

1. Thursday, May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for #MMIW. Wear RED and share a photo holding the #MMIWActionNow poster. Find poster at niwrc.org/mmiwnatlweek22 Make sure to use hashtags #MMIW, #MMIWActionNow and #NoMoreStolenSisters and tag @niwrc in your posts!
2. April 29 - May 5th, 2022 is the National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). How are you taking action this week? See NIWRC's calendar of virtual events for ways to participate: niwrc.org/mmiwnatlweek22 #MMIW, #MMIWActionNow and #NoMoreStolenSisters
3. Want to learn more about the crisis of Missing and Murdered Women and how to take action? Download Restoration Magazine's Special Edition on MMIW: https://n8ve.net/MTWPD #MMIW, #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters
4. The crisis of violence against Indigenous communities must end. It's time to stand up for Native families and relatives who are constantly left behind. Run for justice. Walk in prayer. Join in solidarity. Register for the Running for Justice virtual or in-person 5k, 10

or Half Marathon. More info: https://n8ve.net/6ia1Y #MMIW #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters

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FVPSA

1. More than 1 in 3 Native female victims of violence face unmet service needs. The current #FVPSA funding formula leaves many smaller Tribes unable to provide culturally-based advocacy and supportive services for Native women. The crisis of #MMIW is an effect of the reality that Native women are disproportionately impacted by violence but receive inadequate support during crisis situations. It is crucial we reauthorize #FVPSA through S.1275 to ensure Native victims have increased access to life-saving services. Tell your Senators to #PassS1275 and increase the Tribal set-aside: https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters #TribalFVPSA #FVPSAReauthNow
2. Indigenous women face some of the highest rates of domestic violence, yet there is a distinct gap in the number of culturally based services available for Native women. This gap contributes to the high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women. The Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) provides essential funding for advocacy, safe shelter and supportive services, yet fewer than half of 574 federally recognized Indian Tribes receive FVPSA funding. Congress must reauthorize FVPSA with dedicated funding for Tribal coalitions through S.1275 so that Native women can access the critical resources they need! Take action: https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters #TribalFVPSA #FVPSAReauthNow
3. The availability of a Native-centered resource can make the difference between a relative seeking safety or going missing. #FVPSA must pass with permanent funding for culturally-specific services, including the national Indian domestic violence hotline, the Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and the Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Tell your Senators to #PassS1275! https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters #TribalFVPSA #FVPSAReauthNow

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Savanna's Act

1. Savanna's Act is a critical law because it aims to improve data collection and train law enforcement agencies on responding to missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) and reporting data. However, according to the US Government Accountability Office, MMIW data analyses are in their early stages and the DOJ lacks a plan to continue these efforts.

   Read more in the GAO report: https://n8ve.net/WdoFx

   @thejusticedept and @FBI: you must take immediate action to improve the collection of MMIW data under Savanna's Act

   #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

2. Savanna's Act is a crucial law to combat the crisis of #MMIW. It requires the DOJ:
   - Provide training to law enforcement on proper recording of Tribal enrollment for victims
   - Develop/Implement a strategy to inform the public on NamUS
   - Develop guidelines by region on responses to cases of MMIW
   - Report statistics on MMIW

   @thejusticedept and @FBI: there is still much more work to be done in improving MMIW data and law enforcement response. You must fulfill your obligations under Savanna's Act. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

3. A lack of accurate and comprehensive data on MMIW keeps Native women invisible. @thejusticedept and @FBI: you must do your part under #SavannasAct to improve data collection and report statistics on MMIW. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

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Not Invisible Act

1. How much longer must Native families wait? How many more Indigenous women have to go missing? @thejusticedept, @debhaalandnm, and @usinterior it is beyond time to implement the Not Invisible Act and ensure that meaningful change happens across the board to end the violence against our relatives. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

2. It's been more than 1.5 years since the passage of the #NotInvisibleAct and the DOI and DOJ have yet to announce the Commission or release the status of the NIA

Commission. The DOJ and DOI's silence is the same as the unacceptable silence of law enforcement that family members face when their loved one goes missing. @thejusticedept, @debhaalandnm, and @usinterior YOU must take immediate action. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters
3. The Not Invisible Act is a crucial law meant to help address the crisis of #MMIW. Its purpose is to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians through the creation of a joint commission. However, the DOI and the DOJ have been silent about the NIA's implementation. What is the status of the joint commission, @thejusticedept, @debhaalandnm & @usinterior? WE NEED YOU TO TAKE ACTION! #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

Sample Tweets

MMIW Awareness

1. Thursday, May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for #MMIW. Wear RED and share a photo holding the #MMIWActionNow poster. Find poster at niwrc.org/mmiwnatlweek22

   Make sure to use hashtags #MMIW, #MMIWActionNow and #NoMoreStolenSisters and tag @niwrc in your posts!

2. April 29 - May 5th, 2022 is the National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). How are you taking action this week? See NIWRC's calendar of events for ways to participate: niwrc.org/mmiwnatlweek22 #MMIW #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters

3. Want to learn more about the crisis of Missing and Murdered Women and how to take action? Download Restoration Magazine's Special Edition on MMIW: https://bit.ly/3B7tMdq #MMIW #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters

4. The crisis of violence against Indigenous communities must end. Run for justice. Walk in prayer. Join in solidarity. Register for the Running for Justice 5k, 10 & Half Marathon: https://bit.ly/3OxaO6r #MMIW #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters

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FVPSA

1. More than 1 in 3 Native female victims of violence face unmet service needs. Current #FVPSA funding leaves many smaller Tribes unable to provide culturally-based advocacy for Native women. Tell your Senators to #PassS1275 and increase the Tribal set-aside: https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy

2. FVPSA is lifesaving legislation critical in ending the crisis of #MMIW. Congress must take steps toward sustainably supporting survivors and preventing violence through FVPSA. Tell your Senator to #PassS1275: https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy #FVPSAReauthNow #NoMoreStolenSisters

3. #FVPSA supports life-saving services, but was last re-authorized more than a decade ago. An update to this critical legislation is needed now more than ever to help end #MMIW. Tell the Senate to #PassS1275: https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy #FVPSAReauthNow #TribalFVPSA #NoMoreStolenSisters

4. Indigenous women face some of the highest rates of domestic violence, yet there is a distinct gap in the number of culturally based services available. This gap contributes to the high rates of #MMIW. #PassS1275: https://bit.ly/3lZrfuy #NoMoreStolenSisters #FVPSAReauthNow

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Savanna's Act

1. (Thread)
   (1/2) Savanna's Act is a critical law aiming to improve data collection & train agencies/public on reporting data. However, according to @USGAO, there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the fed. response to the lack of MMIW data. Read the GAO report: https://n8ve.net/WdoFx

   (2/2) @thejusticedept and @FBI: you must take immediate action to improve the collection of MMIW data under Savanna's Act.

   #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

2. @thejusticedept and @FBI: there is still much more work to be done in improving MMIW data and law enforcement response. You must fulfill your obligations under Savanna's Act. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

3. A lack of accurate and comprehensive data on MMIW keeps Native women invisible. @thejusticedept and @FBI: you must do your part under #SavannasAct to improve data collection and report statistics on MMIW. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

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Not Invisible Act

1. How much longer must Native families wait? @thejusticedept, @SecDebHaaland, and @interior it is beyond time to implement the #NotInvisibleAct & enact meaningful change across the board to end the violence against our relatives. #MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

2. It's been over a year since the passage of #NotInvisibleAct and the DOI/DOJ have yet to release the status of the NIA and its Commission. This silence is unacceptable.

@thejusticedept, @SecDebHaaland, and @interior you must take immediate action. #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters
3. The Not Invisible Act is a crucial law to help combat the crisis of #MMIW. However, the DOI/ DOJ have been silent about its implementation. What is the status of the joint commission? @thejusticedept, @SecDebHaaland & @interior: TAKE ACTION! #MMIWActionNow #NoMoreStolenSisters