

“Not Forgotten: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women”



In the spirit of truth-telling and reconciliation, we respectfully acknowledge that this venue is founded on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee People. We honor their Elders, past and present, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We recognize and give thanks for the visions, aspirations and energies they contributed to shape the history that brings us together in this place and moment.



Beezh ka nook: Guardian of the Shore

- Brothertown Indian Nation Peacemaker and Elder
- Mohican Descendant
- Professor of Anthropology and Indigenous Studies



MMIWG – Leaders in the Movement



Annita Lucchesi
Sovereign Bodies
Institute
Executive Director



Abigail Echo-Hawk
Urban Indian
Health Institute
Director



Sad Data

- **506** MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities
- **128** were cases of missing indigenous women
- **280** were cases of murdered indigenous women
- **98** were cases with an “unknown status”
- **29** was the median age of MMIWG victims
- **153 cases were identified that did not exist in law enforcement records**

Since the release of Urban Indian Health Institute’s (UIHI) report titled **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States**, the attention around the MMIWG crisis has grown tremendously.

Legislators, government agencies, and media have been forced to pay attention because of the **relentless work by the families** of MMIWG victims, grassroots activists, tribes, and Native organizations across the country.

American Indian Population Statistics – *Who are the First Nations People we support?*

- **5.2 million people - 1.7 %** of all people in the United States identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, either alone or in combination with one or more other races.
- **573 Tribes** (federally recognized)– across *Turtle Island*.
- Approximately **70%** of Native Americans live outside a reservation - Urban Indians.
- Wisconsin total resident population **5,726,986 - 1.1%** American Indian.

Violence Against Native Women

- **More than four in five** American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced **violence** in their lifetime.
- **More than 1 in 2** American Indian and Alaska Native women (56.1 percent) have experienced **sexual violence** in their lifetime.
- **1 in 3** Native women will be **raped** in their lifetime.

Violence Against Native Men, Women and Children

- More than **1 in 4** American Indian and Alaskan Native **Men** (27.5%) have experienced **sexual violence** in their lifetimes.
- American Indians between the ages of **18 and 24** experience the **highest per capita rate of violence (1:4)** in the nation.
- Native **children** experience **PTSD** at the same rates as veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and **triple** the rate of the general population.

Shocking Disparities that Native Women face in Public Safety, Health and Justice Services

- Native American and Alaska Native women facing **rates of rape or sexual violence at 2.5 times more** than women in the USA in general.
- Nearly **86%** of rapes and sexual violence are **perpetrated by non-Native men.**
- Between 2005 and 2009, U.S. attorneys **declined to prosecute 67%** of the Indian country matters referred to them involving sexual abuse.

**1 IN 5 MMIWG WHO
ARE KILLED DUE TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ARE NOT CLASSIFIED
AS A HOMICIDE.**

*Help us to raise awareness on this crisis by
joining the weekly conversation
#MMWMonday*



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Implicit biases that contribute to the MMIWG epidemic: Institutional and Structural Racism

**AT LEAST 158 MMIW CASES
HAPPENED IN THE US BETWEEN
1900 & 1965, WHEN NATIVE
WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE WAS
FINALLY UPHELD IN FEDERAL
LAW. THEIR DEATHS WERE
SUBJECT TO A JUSTICE SYSTEM
IN WHICH THEY HAD NO
REPRESENTATION.**

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States that have passed legislation

- AZ – May 2019
- MN – November 2019
- MT – “Hanna’s Act” May 2019
- ND – April 2019
- NE – March 2019
- NM – March 2019
- OR – “MMI Peoples declared an emergency” May 2019
- SD – “Establish a procedure for investigating ‘certain’ MMI persons” March 2019
- WA – “Improving law enforcement response to MMIW” April 2019

States with legislation pending

- CA – began in February 2019
- SD – their proposal for investigating is tabled indefinitely (remember they passed a bill to establish procedures to investigate “certain” MMI persons
- **WI - Missing and Murdered Tribal Women and Girls thanks to Lisa Hurst (Oneida), Rep Amanda Stuck and Sen Janet Bewley**
AN ACT relating to: creating a task force on missing and murdered tribal women and girls and making an appropriation.

Task Force to Investigate

This bill creates a task force on missing and murdered tribal women and girls. The task force must be established by the attorney general and must consist of members who are knowledgeable in crime victims rights or violence protection and who work in a range of relevant positions as specified in the bill. **The task force must examine various factors that contribute to violence against tribal women and girls and submit to the chair or president of each tribe and to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 15, 2020, a report on actions that can be taken to eliminate violence against tribal women and girls.**

18+ Member Task Force Composition

- Four or more **representatives for tribal governments**, with a focus on individuals who work with victims of violence or their families.
- Two or more **female tribal elders**.
- Two members of the **senate**, one appointed by the majority leader and one appointed by the minority leader.
- Two members of the **assembly**, one appointed by the speaker of the assembly and one appointed by the minority leader.
- Two representatives from among the state **police/sheriff associations**
- One or more representatives from state **judicial** associations
- A **county coroner** or representative from health services
- Four or more representatives from **tribal associations and services**

Task Force Responsibilities are to discover ...

- The **systemic causes** behind violence that tribal women and girls experience, including patterns and underlying factors that explain... and cultural factors which may contribute to the violence.
- **Appropriate methods for tracking and collecting data** on violence against tribal women and girls, ...
- **Policies and institutions** such as policing, ... and other governmental practices that **impact violence** against tribal women and girls and the investigation and prosecution of crimes of gender violence against tribal people.
- **Measures necessary to address and reduce** violence against tribal women and girls.
- **Measures to help** victims, victims' families, and victims' communities prevent and heal from violence that occurs against tribal women and girls.

Key Points

- Reinforces and acknowledges tribal sovereignty
- Indigenous representation will be the majority
- Task Force is responsive to tribal governments needs
- Integrated effort across multiple jurisdictions

Assembly Bill 548

Assembly Committee on State Affairs

- [Rep Swearingen \(Chair\)](#)
- [Rep Tauchen \(Vice-Chair\)](#) Rep for Stockbridge-Munsee
- [Rep Jagler](#)
- [Rep Schraa](#)
- [Rep Knodl](#)
- [Rep Kuglitsch](#)
- [Rep Summerfield](#)
- [Rep Kulp](#)
- [Rep Vorpapel](#)
- [Rep Sinicki](#)
- [Rep McGuire](#)
- [Rep Ohnstad](#)
- [Rep Crowley](#)
- [Rep Stubbs](#)
- [Rep Cabrera](#)

Senate Bill 493

Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection

- [Sen Stroebel \(Chair\)](#)
- [Sen Kapenga \(Vice-Chair\)](#)
- [Sen Craig](#)
- [Sen Wirch](#)
- [Sen Smith](#) (Senator for Ho-Chunk)

Action Needed

- Contact your legislators supporting the bill and ask them to ask the Committees for a **public hearing**
- Contact your lobby organizations to ask them to send formal letter of support of the bills and ask for a **public hearing**
- LWV Wisconsin has formally supported both bills