

Dear CNM Community,

In recognition of May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls, CNM Equity Council will honor all Native women and girls who suffered and died as a result of violence and injustice. CNM encourages our community to learn more about this epidemic. CNM Equity Council stands in solidarity with the Native American Task Team and Indigenous communities, and we are committed to supporting initiatives that address this issue.

We are writing to raise awareness of the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. There have been thousands of documented cases of missing Native women and girls as well as murders in the U.S., according to the National Crime Information Center. Native women and girls are 10 times more likely to be the homicide victims than the national average, and it's one of the top causes of death for Native women and girls ages 10 and 24. Domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking are the causes of their disappearances and murders.

This crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is not new. This devastating issue has existed since the beginning of colonization, and the inhumane anti-Indigenous policies and regulations have resulted in this epidemic of violence against members of the sovereign Nations.

On April 1, 2021, the U.S.'s first Indigenous cabinet secretary Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced the creation of a Bureau of Indian Affairs unit to investigate missing and murdered Native Americans. The unit will work with tribal, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Federal Bureau of Investigations to review active and unsolved cases.

“Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated,” said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

While we cannot change the history and the past, we have the power to change the course of our future. Let us acknowledge the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, learn ways to be caring towards and connected with our Native American community, and take a stand in solidarity. We encourage you to explore the provided resources below.

CNM Equity Council

<https://www.cnm.edu/about/equity-council>

Learning Resources:

- ✓ Department of Justice Journal of Federal Law and Practice <https://www.justice.gov/usao/page/file/1362691/download>
- ✓ Secretary Haaland Creates New Missing & Murdered Unit to Pursue Justice for Missing or Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives <https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary->

[haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american](#)

- ✓ Udall Introduces Resolution Recognizing National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls <https://www.indian.senate.gov/news/press-release/udall-introduces-resolution-recognizing-national-day-awareness-missing-and>
- ✓ Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW): Bringing Awareness through the Power of Student Activism <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1118&context=kicjir>
- ✓ Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFI8LnadHFY>
- ✓ Running for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women | Rosalie Fish | TEDxYouth@Seattle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8bFL7WC4iE>
- ✓ How do we stop aboriginal women from disappearing? | Beverley Jacobs | TEDxCalgary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NtkmnJ2Q3w>
- ✓ Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arGAU8E_QZI
- ✓ The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women <https://www.csvanw.org>
- ✓ Urban Indian Health Institute's 'Our Bodies, Our Stories' <https://www.uihi.org/projects/our-bodies-our-stories/>