



COALITION to STOP  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
NATIVE WOMEN

## MISSING and MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN and GIRLS (MMIWG) in NM

### What is MMIWG?

It is a community-based grassroots movement raising awareness and addressing the lack of response when a Native woman or girl goes missing or is murdered.

### What Contributes to MMIWG?

The legacy of violence perpetuated against Native women and children within New Mexico date back to Spanish and Euro-American invasion of Native lands. The adoption of patriarchal systems of governance set the foundation to normalize the ongoing imbalance of power experienced by Native women and girls.

Additionally, the forced removal of Native people from traditional territories and the forced implementation of bureaucratic borders allow for the ongoing lack of accountability when a womxn or girl goes missing or is murdered.



### MMIWG in NEW MEXICO

- There were 506 cases of MMIWG in 71 urban cities across the United States.
- NM has the highest incidents of MMIWG cases at 78 cases.
- NM has two of the top 10 ten cities nationwide with the highest number of MMIWG cases:
  - *Albuquerque, 37 cases*
  - *Gallup, 25 cases*
- Cases of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two spirit (LGBTQ2S+) have been undercounted.
- 29 is the median age of MMIWG victims.
- Murder is the 3rd leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Natives.

We are not truly dead until the hearts of our women are on the ground.

– **Black Elk**

# MISSING and MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN and GIRLS

## MMIW Also Involves:

- Inconsistent response when it comes to jurisdictional gaps and barriers.
- Land and body violence are connected. Extractive industries creates conditions for ongoing violence against womxn and destruction of sacred land.
- Racism and bias from law enforcement and system workers.
- Recognizing sex trafficking and other acts of violence.
- Misinformation to no acknowledgment in the media.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Share and update available resources needed to address the ongoing violence.
- Support local MMIWG efforts
  - Support families who have lost relatives
  - Support Nations/Pueblos and grassroots movements
- Call on all tribal communities to build brave and supportive spaces.
- Call on a higher level of accountability from tribal, state and federal leaders:
  - Advocate when a citizen from their nation goes missing
  - Advocate when law enforcement is not upholding their trust to their community.

### SOURCE

Lucchesi A., & Echo-Hawk, A. (2018). Missing and murdered indigenous women & girls: A snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States. Urban Indian Health Institute.



4600 Montgomery Blvd NE #202B  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 243-9199 | [www.csvanw.org](http://www.csvanw.org)

