

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS (MMIWG) IN NEW MEXICO

WHAT IS MMIWG?

It is a community-based grassroots movement to raise awareness and address the lack of response when Native women, girls, and relatives go missing or 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 and oppression experienced by Native women and girls.

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

There were 506 cases of MMIWG in 71 urban cities across the United States

NM has the highest number of MMIWG cases - 78 cases

NM made the top 10 ten cities nationwide with the highest number of MMIWG cases

ABQ: 37 cases
Gallup: 25 cases

MMIWG IN NEW MEXICO



Murder is the 3rd leading cause of death among American Indian/Alaska Native

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Undercounted cases of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two spirit (LGBTQ2S+) individuals



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

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MMIW ALSO INVOLVES:

- Inconsistent responses when it comes to jurisdictional gaps and barriers
- Land and body violence are one of the same: exacerbates the ongoing MMIWG crisis due to the constant violation of sacred lands for the interest of extractive industries
- Systemic racism and lack of accountability from law enforcement and investigators
- Recognizing that sex trafficking directly intersects with the MMIWG crisis
- Misinformation or lack of acknowledgment in the media

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sharing and updating available resources needed to address the ongoing violence
- Support local MMIWG efforts in New Mexico
 - Support families impacted by a missing or murdered relative
 - Support Nations/Pueblos and grassroots movements
- Call on all tribal communities to build brave and supportive spaces
- Calling on a higher level of accountability from tribal, state and federal leaders:
 - Ask that resources and wrap around service be provided to families
 - Advocate when law enforcement is not upholding their trust to community.



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