



# **Resources for Learning More About Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

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## **I. Basic Facts:**

- [MMIW one-page fact sheet](#)
- [Introductory information](#) from the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

## **II. Spiritual Responses:**

- [Sermon by Deacon Colleen Bernu](#)

### **Discussion questions to accompany Deacon Colleen Bernu's Sermon:**

1. Too often, we white folk tend to seek diverse interconnectedness through what we perceive as “good,” “happy” or “neutral” similarities. Deacon Colleen points out that there are, in actuality, significant differences, so much so that “Jesus breaks into my life in a different way than he breaks into yours.” Think of ways you can build authentic relationship with your diverse neighbors. (Hint: How can you look for similarities while also recognizing and honoring differences?)
  2. Deacon Colleen preaches, “It’s time for the church to actually follow in [Jesus’] footsteps and be the change the world aches to see.” First, consider that the church is the body of Christ, that is, each of us working together to proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus. Now consider that, as the church, we are invited into the suffering of the world. Take a moment to imagine that suffering. What might it feel like to see so many women and two-spirited members of your community go missing? What can the church do right now to meet these communities in their suffering? What can the church do to bring an end to this suffering? What can I do to ensure that the church takes the necessary action to end this suffering?
  3. In what ways can I resist the culture of domination that exploits other people — especially Native women and girls?
  4. How does the view of dominance over nature conflict with God’s desire for us to care for creation? How will that impact my current lifestyle? Am I willing to make the changes?
  5. Making small incremental changes and calling it “progress” is unsatisfactory when transformation is what is required. How can I participate in making transformational change a reality in my personal life, in my relationship with others, in my relationship with all of creation?
- [“Candlelight Vigil for Murdered and Missing Women” by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy](#)

- **How to honor MMIW Day (May 5) in your congregation:**

1. Wear red (T-shirts available from the ELCA) and take pictures. Use social media to raise awareness. Use hashtags: #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters #TruthandHealing #ELCA
2. Organize a prayer vigil (using [this resource](#)).
3. Include MMIWGR in the prayers for the day.
4. Say the names of MMIWGR (this would be especially meaningful if you also did the research to identify locally/regionally specific MMIWGR) and light candles for them during worship.
5. Invite (and compensate) a local Indigenous expert to share on this topic as part of your educational time.
6. Invite (and compensate) local Indigenous musicians to play/sing during worship.

### **III. Government Response:**

- [Fact sheet on Savanna's Act](#)
- [Fact sheet on Not Invisible Act](#)
- [Report from U.S. Department of the Interior on MMIW](#)

### **IV. Videos, Movies, TV**

- ***Murder in Big Horn* (documentary, Showtime Stream)**  
*Murder in Big Horn* crafts a powerful portrait of tribal members and their communities within Big Horn County, Mont., battling an epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women that has been prevalent since colonization. It is a three-part docuseries that examines the circumstances surrounding many of these cases, told solely through the perspectives of those involved: Native families, Native journalists and local law enforcement officers.
- **[The Missing and Murdered](#) (documentary, PBS Stream)**  
The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Ride was created to raise awareness and give thanks for those who endured. Those who ride bring names of their loved ones who have been affected by violence, who are lost and left without a voice.
- **[Unreported World: "Vanished: America's Missing Indigenous Women"](#)**  
*Unreported World*, a British foreign affairs program, follows a private investigator who is trying to track down Indigenous women who have gone missing without a trace in the United States.

- [\*\*\*Somebody's Daughter\* \(documentary\)\*\*](#)  
This film highlights some of the higher-profile MMIW cases, including historical points of reference and the victims' and their families' stories. Showcasing the legal and jurisdictional maze and socio-economic bondage that constricts Indian Country, it was made to alert lawmakers and the public that the MMIW crisis exists and needs urgent action.
- [\*\*\*True Crime Arizona: "The Forgotten"\* \(documentary\)\*\*](#)  
This documentary shows the Indigenous women of Arizona that are disappearing and have yet to be put in the media. It highlights two separate cases and identifies missing and murdered Indigenous women's data.
- [\*\*\*Native American Voices: "MMIW: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls"\*\*\*](#)  
This video is a panel discussion that exclusively highlights Native people speaking their voices and sharing their stories. This is the second video of a three-part webinar series, *Native American Voices*.
- [\*\*\*The Epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women \(MMIW\)\* \(documentary\)\*\*](#)  
This documentary is from a workshop that was presented by the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW) and organized by the New Mexico Diversity Conference for Youth. The workshop covers data, age and history of violence against Indigenous women.
- [\*\*\*Fault Lines: "The Search: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women"\*\*\*](#)  
*Fault Lines* travels across the western U.S. to Washington, Montana and New Mexico to find out why Indigenous women are going missing at alarming rates and what more can be done to address this problem.
- [\*\*\*Our Sisters in Spirit\* \(documentary\)\*\*](#)  
This short documentary explores the question of national public inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada.
- [\*\*\*They Are Gone\* \(documentary\)\*\*](#)  
In Montana the Native American population makes up less than 8% of the state's population but accounts for over 26% of the missing persons. This film highlights stories and perspectives from Native families affected by this epidemic.
- [\*\*\*Rosalie Fish, "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women"\* \(TED Talk\)\*\*](#)  
Rosalie Fish is an 18-year-old member of the Cowlitz Tribe and was a competitive runner for the Muckleshoot Reservation in Auburn, Wash. She uses her ability to run competitively to make awareness for MMIW and continues to advocate for this cause.
- [\*\*"MMIW"\*\*](#)  
Facts, data and history collected by the students of the University of Washington.

- [\*\*Sophie Kiwala, “Missing Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, a Canadian Responsibility” \(TED Talk\)\*\*](#)  
Sophie Kiwala is the former Member of Provincial Parliament for Kingston and the Islands, where she served as parliamentary assistant to the minister of Indigenous relations and reconciliation. She speaks about true reconciliation and Canada’s heart-wrenching history when it comes to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
- [\*\*Tamara Bernard, “We Are More Than Murdered and Missing \(TED Talk\)\*\*](#)  
Encouraging hope, love and empowerment in her talk to help promote a new way of learning together as a nation, Tamara lays bare the world of violence impacting Indigenous women.
- [\*\*“Decolonizing Data: Strengthening Community Voices to Take Action for Our Missing Relatives” \(webinar\)\*\*](#)  
This webinar was hosted to get community members to take action and help strengthen the data on missing relatives. Community members are the best ones to provide this information that can be used to push for justice. “We want to acknowledge that up to this point, we have seen little action by many local, state and federal justice systems even when our loved ones are reported in databases.”
- [\*\*ABC News Nightline: “Indigenous Student’s Disappearance Part of Epidemic of Missing Native Women”\*\*](#)  
Ashley Loring Heavyrunner vanished in 2017, just one of nearly 6,000 missing Indigenous women. Oftentimes the complicated and underfunded justice system leaves these violent crimes unsolved.
- [\*\*Beverly Jacobs, “How Do We Stop Aboriginal Women From Disappearing?” \(TED Talk\)\*\*](#)  
Beverly Jacobs reminds us of our collective responsibility to end the epidemic of missing and murdered Aboriginal woman in Canada, first by acknowledging the tough truths about colonization, racism and sexism in our communities.
- [\*\*“Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women”\*\*](#)  
Stories, data, history and awareness.
- [\*\*“The Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis Explained”\*\*](#)  
More than 750 Indigenous people remained missing in 2021, according to federal data. Bo Erickson, co-host of the CBS News *Missing Justice* podcast, and Darlene Gomes, attorney and advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous people, join to discuss the crisis.
- [\*\*PBS NewHour: “How Prejudice Affects Official Search for Missing Indigenous Women, Other Women of Color”\*\*](#)  
A non-Native woman receives more attention when it comes to missing or violence incidents compared to a Native woman or other women of color. Native women are murdered at rates that are 10 times the national average.

- [“The Silent Crisis: Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women”](#)
- [\*Silent No More\* \(documentary\)](#)  
This documentary seeks to expose the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women in the United States. It includes heart-wrenching interviews with the family members of Native women who either have been murdered or are still missing.
- [\*Killers of the Flower Moon\* \(drama\)](#)  
Movie based on the nonfiction book by David Grann and starring Lily Gladstone. [Download discussion questions based on the movie.](#)

## **V. ELCA Resources**

- Vance Blackfox, Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations ([vance.blackfox@elca.org](mailto:vance.blackfox@elca.org))
- Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force
- ELCA MMIW Task Force
- [ELCA Social Messages and Social Statements](#)
  - Social message, “Gender-based Violence” (2015), with study guide
  - Social message, “Commercial Sexual Exploitation” (2001)
  - Social statement, *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* (2019), with study guide

## **VI. Organizations Working with MMIW**

- [National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center](#)  
The center’s mission and vision is to provide national leadership to help end the violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women by supporting culturally grounded, grassroots advocacy for the restoration of sovereignty and the safety of Native women.
  - [MMIW Database of Response Contacts](#)  
This tool is to help you when a loved one is missing by using the location and tribal affiliation to determine the person or office you need to call. This database of contacts offers contact information for federal and state authorities, as well as victims’ services programs and other family resources.
- [Sovereign Bodies Institute](#)  
Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI) builds on Indigenous traditions of data gathering and knowledge transfer to create, disseminate and put into action research on gender and sexual violence against Indigenous people. It also provides case advocacy and healing resources.

For questions about case advocacy and outreach/awareness, please contact the director of research and outreach, Annita Lucchesi, at [annita@sovereign-bodies.org](mailto:annita@sovereign-bodies.org). For general requests regarding support services, please email [allourrelations@sovereign-bodies.org](mailto:allourrelations@sovereign-bodies.org) or [mmiwdatabase@sovereign-bodies.org](mailto:mmiwdatabase@sovereign-bodies.org).

- **[Wisconsin Department of Justice](#)**

**Co-chair:** Representative Skye Alloway, Forest County Potawatomi

**Contact:** [skye\\_alloway@yahoo.com](mailto:skye_alloway@yahoo.com)

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Chris McKinny, Government Affairs Director: [MckinnyCJ@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:MckinnyCJ@doj.state.wi.us)

- **[Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women](#)**

The coalition’s mission statement is “to stop violence against Native women and children by advocating for social change in our communities. CSVANW takes responsibility and ownership for the future of Native women and children by providing support, education and advocacy using their strengths, power and unity to create violence-free communities.”

**Phone:** 505-243-9199

Albuquerque, N.M.

- **[StrongHearts Native Helpline](#)**

This 24/7, safe helpline is confidential and anonymous, offering culturally appropriate support and advocacy for domestic and sexual violence victims that are Native American and Alaska Natives.

**Hotline:** 844-762-8483

**Email:** [info@strongheartshelpline.org](mailto:info@strongheartshelpline.org)

- **[Indian Law Resource Center](#)**

The Indian Law Resource Center helps American Indian and Indigenous people across the Americas to demand justice and equality and respect for Indigenous people’s human rights.

**Phone:** 406-449-2006

**Email:** [mt@indianlaw.org](mailto:mt@indianlaw.org)

Helena, Mont.

**Phone:** 202-547-2800

**Email:** [dcoffice@indianlaw.org](mailto:dcoffice@indianlaw.org)

Washington, D.C.

- **[Women Spirit Coalition](#)**

This organization advocates for and promotes policy on behalf of member tribal programs to ensure that tribes are receiving equal access to funding streams to establish and maintain services to increase the safety of Native women.

**Phone:** 360-681-3710

Sequim, Wash.

- **[Native Alliance Against Violence\\*](#)**  
Created in 2009, the Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV) is a nonprofit organization operating as Oklahoma’s only tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalition. The NAAV is not a direct service provider; however, it does serve Oklahoma’s federally recognized tribes and their tribal domestic violence and sexual assault programs.  
**Phone:** 405-801-2277  
**Email:** [info@oknaav.org](mailto:info@oknaav.org)  
Norman, Okla.
- **[MMIW USA](#)**  
This organization serves those who are affected by the loss of a family member to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and people (MMIW/P) and those who are at a broader disadvantage due to things such as domestic violence, addiction, trafficking, the foster care system, and other issues that are prevalent in Indigenous communities. MMIW USA serves all Native people, no matter whether they are on or off their home reservation lands.  
**Phone:** 503-891-0040  
**Email:** [mmiwusa@gmail.com](mailto:mmiwusa@gmail.com)
- **[Mending the Sacred Hoop](#)**  
Mending the Sacred Hoop works from a social change perspective to end violence against Native women and children while restoring the safety, sovereignty and sacredness of Native women.  
**Phone:** 888-305-1650 or 218-623-HOOP  
Duluth, Minn.
- **[The Law Offices of Darlene Gomez](#)**  
The Law Offices of Darlene Gomez, LLC, actively works in causes related to promoting Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). The firm’s page lists related and recent work it does to help promote this movement.  
**Phone:** 505-842-0392  
Albuquerque, N.M.

*\*These organizations have their own lists of resources that are more extensive.*

## **VII. Reports and Data**

- **[Native Women’s Wilderness](#)**  
“Native Women’s Wilderness was created to bring Native women together to share their stories, support each other and learn from one another as they endeavor to explore and celebrate the wilderness and our native lands.” Specifically for MMIW, it offers statistics, policy initiatives and state-mandated reports.



- **[Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women](#)**  
The coalition’s mission is “to stop violence against Native women and children by advocating for social change in our communities.” CSVANW takes responsibility for and ownership of the future of Native women and children by providing support, education and advocacy, using their strengths, power and unity to create violence-free communities.
- **[Urban Indian Health Institute](#)**  
Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) “is leading the way in research and data for urban American Indian and Alaska Native communities. As a Public Health Authority and one of 12 Tribal Epidemiology Centers in the country—and the only one that serves Urban Indian Organizations nationwide — UIHI conducts research and evaluation, collects and analyzes data, and provides disease surveillance to strengthen the health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.”  
Seattle, Wash.
- **[National Congress of American Indians](#)**  
NCAI advocates to strengthen tribal law enforcement, improve coordination between federal agencies working for and within Indian Country, and urge the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Interior (DOI) and all other federal agencies to live up to their trust and treaty responsibilities to tribal nations.
- **[Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center](#)**  
The Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) resource page “is meant to provide current information on this national crisis, answer questions and provide resources as to what you and your community can do to help or how to become involved in the national movement to stop the abduction and murder of our Indigenous sisters, mothers and daughters.”  
**Email:** [info@aknwrc.org](mailto:info@aknwrc.org)
- **[Indigenous Sexual Assault & Abuse Clearinghouse](#)**  
The ISAAC “is developing a unique approach to delivering training and providing resources, education, technical assistance and support to professionals addressing sexual assault and abuse in Tribal Communities. ... The ISAAC team believes that our strength lies not only in the words we stand by, but most importantly through the actions of our initiatives. We believe by working together we can overcome challenges more efficiently, and that is why we are working closely with our partners to deliver up-to-date training to Alaska and Indian Country.”  
**Professional Resource Helpline:** 800-999-5444
- **[Source New Mexico: MMIW Task Force](#)**  
Source New Mexico is “an independent, nonprofit news organization that shines a light on governments, policies and public officials so you get the information you need to make choices — about yourself, your family, your neighborhoods and communities. Through a lens of public health and equity, we’ll bring you original news reporting along with analysis and opinion.”
- **[National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College](#)**

- [Bureau of Indian Affairs | “Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis”](#)
- [National Congress of American Indians](#)
- [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#)
- [“Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls” \(report\)](#)
- [“Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women: New Efforts Are Underway but Opportunities Exist to Improve the Federal Response” \(report\)](#)
- [“Reducing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” \(report\)](#)

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