



**May 5th, 2023**

## National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Under the Not Invisible Act, passed in October 2020, the Departments of Justice and Interior created a Joint Commission on reducing violent crime against American Indians and Alaska Natives. On May 5, 2022, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the full membership of the Commission, composed of federal and non-federal members with a diverse range of experiences, expertise, and perspective. Each year, May 5th is now recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) throughout US.

Despite efforts to raise awareness, of the 5,712 cases of MMIWG in the United States only 116 were included in the Department of Justice (DOJ) database. As a point of reference, if the portraits of the women and girls in this exhibit were actually MMIWG, only 2 out of the 94 would be included in the DOJ database as recognized MMIWG cases. According to the DOJ, American Indian and Alaskan Native women experience murder rates that are 10 times higher than the national average.

“A red hand over the mouth has become the symbol of a growing movement, the MMIW movement. It stands for all the missing sisters whose voices are not heard. It stands for the silence of the media and law enforcement in the midst of this crisis. It stands for the oppression and subjugation of Native women who are now rising up to say #NoMoreStolenSisters.” *Source: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). Native Hope. (n.d.). <https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw>*

Megabus 5304 Raising Awareness Team has provided this informational sheet, resource sheet, social media posts, as well MS Teams backgrounds and images to use on this day of awareness. We also encourage all to **Wear Red on May 5th** to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

For more information or assistance please contact your local VA Tribal Liaison ([www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/contact.asp](http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/contact.asp)), Minority Veteran Coordinator ([www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/mvpc/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/mvpc/index.asp)) or Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Coordinator (see website below).



Contact Your VA Coordinator  
**Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program**  
[www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Coordinators.asp](http://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Coordinators.asp)

The National Domestic Violence  
**HOTLINE**  
1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)