



# MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN & RELATIVES (MMIWR) IN NEW MEXICO



COALITION to STOP  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
NATIVE WOMEN

## WHAT IS MMIWR?

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 MMIWR?

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, children, LGBTQ+, 2Spirit and Trans and gender non-conforming relatives.

## 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 an Indigenous relative goes missing or is murdered.

## NEW MEXICO STATISTICS

The National Crime Information Center reported in 2016 that 5,712 cases were reported and only 116 were logged into the Department of Justice database [1]

The median age of MMIWR victims is 29 [1]

Native Americans account for 52% of Missing Persons in McKinley and San Juan Counties in New Mexico [3]



New Mexico and The Navajo Nation have 194 verified missing or murdered persons. [2]

Native American Women in NM have the highest rate of homicide among ALL racial and ethnic groups [1]

27% of cases were under the age of 18 [1]

## SOURCES

[1] Lucchesi A., & Echo-Hawk, A. (2018). Missing and murdered indigenous women & girls: A snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States. [2] Urban Indian Health Institute. New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Instagram MMIP Update, full list: [www.fbi.gov/mmip](http://www.fbi.gov/mmip) [3] New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives' Task Force Findings (2021)



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## THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN TALKING ABOUT MMIWR

**RECOGNIZING THAT  
SEX TRAFFICKING  
DIRECTLY INTERSECTS  
WITH THE MMIWR  
CRISIS**

**MISINFORMATION  
OR LACK  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
IN THE MEDIA**

**HISTORICALLY  
UNDERFUNDED AGENCIES  
TASKED WITH RESPONDING  
TO THIS CRISIS**

**INCONSISTENT  
RESPONSES DUE TO  
JURISDICTIONAL GAPS  
AND BARRIERS**

**SYSTEMIC RACISM  
AND LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY FROM LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATORS**

**LAND AND BODY ARE  
ONE OF THE SAME;  
EXACERBATES THE  
ONGOING MMIWR CRISIS  
DUE TO THE CONSTANT  
VIOLATION OF SACRED  
LANDS FOR THE INTEREST  
OF EXTRACTIVE  
INDUSTRIES**



**UNDERCOUNTED  
CASES OF LESBIAN,  
GAY, BISEXUAL,  
TRANSGENDER,  
QUEER, TWO SPIRIT  
(LGBTQ2S+)  
INDIVIDUALS IN DATA**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Demand the implementation of MMIWR Tribal Community Response Plans in all of NM's Tribal Nations and Pueblos.
-  Sharing and updating available resources needed to address the ongoing violence
-  Establish support services for families to create access to domestic violence shelters in border towns and rural areas of NM.
-  Support local MMIWR efforts in New Mexico
-  Call on Tribal communities to build brave and supportive spaces to discuss these issues.

## RESOURCES

**NM Missing and Murdered Indigenous  
Women & Relatives Task Force**  
505-476-6000  
[www.iad.gov](http://www.iad.gov)

**Murdered and Missing Dine  
Relatives Coalition**  
<http://www.navajommdr.org/>

**National Indigenous Women's  
Resource Center**  
[www.niwr.org](http://www.niwr.org)

**Sovereign Bodies Institute**  
<http://www.sovereign-bodies.org/>