

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.

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]

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



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]

SOURCES

[1] Caponera, Betty. "Sex Crimes in New Mexico XVII: An Analysis of 2018 Data from the New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository." Oct. 2019. [2] "SV Among AI/AN in NM" Caponera, NMSCAP

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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**

**FROM LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND
INVESTIGATORS**

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

**LAND AND BODY
VIOLENCE 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

-  Sharing and updating available resources needed to address the ongoing violence
-  Make support service, shelters available for survivors in border towns and rural areas in the state
-  Support local MMIWR efforts in New Mexico
-  Call on all Tribal communities to build brave and supportive spaces
-  Calling on a higher level of accountability from Tribal, state and federal leaders

RESOURCES

**NM Missing and Murdered Indigenous
Women & Relatives Task Force**

505-476-6000
www.iad.gov

Murdered and Missing Dine Relatives
<https://navajommdr.org/>

**National Indigenous Women's Resource
Center**
www.niwrc.org

Sovereign Bodies Institute
www.sovereign-bodies.org/