


Red Dress Day

#MMIWG2S Awareness

Know – Wonder - Learn

What do I already know about this topic?	What do I wonder about? Questions I have.	What did I learn? Notes
		



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Say Their Names #MMIWG

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

in Canada are disproportionately affected by violence and are over-represented in the overall incidence of women that are murdered and go missing. This crisis is a result of the legacy of colonialism and the ongoing racism experienced by Indigenous Peoples compounded by gender based discrimination that is so foreign to Indigenous cultures. The trauma and intergenerational impact of the residential school system has also contributed to the social, political, and economic marginalization of Indigenous Peoples.



Photo: Glen Hansman

- The movement to bring attention to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to make positive change for safer communities has been driven by Indigenous families and communities for over 50 years.
- Until very recently, "mainstream Canada" has ignored or minimized the impacts of systemic colonialism, racism, sexism, and discrimination that have created the conditions under which violence against Indigenous girls and women has reached epidemic proportions.



FACTS:

- In the words of **James Anaya**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the prevalence of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada are of "**epidemic**" proportion.
- The homicide rate of Indigenous victims in 2017 was reported to be **six times** that of non-Indigenous females. Indigenous women had an overall frequency of violent victimizations that was double that of Indigenous men, and close to **triple** that of non-Indigenous women. (*Department of Justice*)
- The likelihood of Indigenous women and girls being murdered or going missing is much higher than previously thought, according to a study done by Marianne Pearce and Tracey Peter, Associate Professors at the Department of Sociology, U of Manitoba. Pearce and Peter found that Indigenous women and girls are **12 times** more likely to be murdered or go missing than any other women in Canada, and **16 times** more likely than Caucasian women.
- While Indigenous women comprise only **4%** of all women in Canada, they make up 28% of homicide victims. In 2019, of **144** women killed in Canada, **40** were Indigenous.
- Indigenous women are sexually assaulted **three times** more often than non-Indigenous women, and most of the women and children trafficked in Canada are Indigenous.



By taking collective responsibility for safety, and by educating Canadians about the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls, we can effect real change. ... Indigenous women and girls have a right to feel safe in their homes and communities and wherever they live across the country. They have human rights that must be upheld so that they can achieve their dreams and use their gifts, talents, and skills to benefit their families, communities, and all of Canada. They have the right to the peaceful enjoyment of their lives. Our collective action can make all of this a reality. By confronting racism, sexism, stereotypes, and myths, change is possible.

—Charlene Bearhead, Their Voices Will Guide Us