

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) is a deeply rooted issue that disproportionately impacts Indigenous communities in Washington state and across the nation which perpetuates termination practices such as those inflicted upon Native children and their families during the Indian Boarding Schools eras; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington state has the second-highest number of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in the United States, as reported by the Urban Indian Health Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, the murder rate for Native women is more than 10 times the national average in some areas of Washington state, three times higher than the state average, and four times higher for Native females from birth through age 19, with murder as the third leading cause of death for Native women; and

**WHEREAS**, the missing rate for Native people is nearly three times higher than the state missing rate average in Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature established the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Task Force in 2021 to address systemic causes of violence, improve data collection and propose actionable recommendations to protect Indigenous communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force has worked tirelessly to center the voices of survivors, families and impacted communities, while addressing gaps in services, jurisdictional challenges and systemic inequities; and

**WHEREAS**, the work of the Task Force is vital to promoting justice, healing and accountability for Indigenous people and ensuring that no family or community is left without support in times of immense trauma;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

### *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Peoples Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all Washingtonians to participate in the many activities planned during this month, and I proclaim my unwavering support for the work and purpose of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Task Force, and for all those state agencies, Tribes, community-based organizations, impacted families and individuals working tirelessly to find our missing relatives and neighbors, and call upon all Washingtonians to join in raising awareness, educating ourselves on how to help combat human trafficking, advocating for justice and supporting the ongoing efforts to address this crisis.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025

  
Governor Bob Ferguson

