

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the STATE TREASURER

Proclamation

WHEREAS; the National Institute of Justice reports that 84% of American Indian Alaskan Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, more than half of whom experienced sexual violence; and a study conducted by the Urban Indian Health Institute showed that American Indian and Alaskan Native women experience disproportionately elevated rates of death by homicide, at a rate of 2.7 deaths per 100,000; and

WHEREAS; no reliable data exists on the actual number of missing Indigenous women and girls in the United States, and instances of violence continue to be directed against Indigenous women, living on both reservations and in urban areas, at high rates;

WHEREAS; the Urban Indian Health Institute found there have been at least six cases of missing and murdered tribal women and girls in Wisconsin in a 2018 report; and

WHEREAS; Indigenous women experience racism and prejudice through invisibility, often driven by a lack of media coverage. Many missing and murdered Indigenous women today remain unnamed and their disappearances unknown or unheard of; and

WHEREAS; structural factors such as racism, stigma, and criminalization of substance use and mental health issues, culturally incongruent shelter policies, siloed programming, and gender inequality interact in complex ways, resulting in inadequate services for women who identify as American Indian; and

WHEREAS; some of the Wisconsin Indigenous women we know about include: Bad River Ojibwe members Angeline Whitebird-Sweet, murdered in 1989, Charlene Couture, missing since 2009, Sheila St. Clair, missing since 2015, Tess White, murdered in 2016, Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe members Susan Poupart, murdered in 1990, LaVonne Frank, murdered 1997, Donna (LaBarge) Peterson, murdered 2004, Emily Anne Marie Wayman, murdered 2010; Ho-Chunk members Jennifer Wesho, murdered 1989; Jacinda Muir, murdered 2015; Kozee Decorah, murdered May 2020; Menominee members: Lisa Ninham; missing since 1990; Rae Elaine Tourillot; murdered 1986, Ingrid Washinawatok; murdered 1999, Katelyn Kelley; murdered July 2020, and Oneida member Lorraine Brown Bear, murdered 2016, and

WHEREAS; we commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native women and girls whose cases are documented and undocumented in public records and media and demonstrate solidarity with the families of the victims in light of these tragedies;

Now Therefore, I, Sarah Godlewski, State Treasurer of Wisconsin
do proclaim May 5th, 2022, as

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS AWARENESS DAY



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the Great
Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed.
Done at the Capitol in the city of Madison
on this 5th day of May 2022.

Sarah Godlewski

By the State Treasurer:

Douglas La Follette
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

SARAH GODLEWSKI
STATE TREASURER