

STATE of

WHEREAS:

American Indians make up approximately 1.1% of Minnesota's population; and

WHEREAS:

The December 2020 report from Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force t to the $Minnesota\ Legislature\ found\ that, from\ 2010\ through\ 2018, American\ Indian\ women\ and\ girls\ represented\ 8\%$ of all women and girls murdered in Minnesota, and in any given month during that period, between 27 and 54 American Indian women and girls in Minnesota were missing; and

WHEREAS:

Indigenous women, girls, men, boys, LGBTQIA+, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming people continue to be targeted for murder, exploitation, and abduction in Minnesota's urban, rural, and reservation populations, disappearing at alarming rates with very little public visibility and justice; and

WHEREAS.

 $This is an ongoing \ crisis \ that \ affects \ Indian \ Country \ across \ the \ United \ States, on \ and \ off \ the \ reservation \ and \ in$ urban and rural communities, where 97% of Native women and 90% of Native men who experience violence are victimized by an interracial perpetrator; and

WHEREAS:

 $In digenous\ women\ continue\ to\ experience\ the\ highest\ rates\ of\ sexual\ assault\ and\ rates\ of\ domestic\ violence\ -$

up to 10 times higher than all other women in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS:

There is no comprehensive estimate for the number of Indigenous people who are missing or have been

murdered since the beginning of colonization; and

WHEREAS:

The history of colonization and ongoing systemic racism have increased the prevalence and impact of poverty, unsheltered homelessness and housing instability, incarceration, and or violent relationships for Native

Americans compared to non-Native Americans; and

WHEREAS:

Minnesota is committed to spreading awareness of the Indigenous women, girls, men, boys, and LGBTQIA+, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming relatives who have gone missing or have been murdered, tortured, raped, trafficked, and assaulted, as well as those who have not had the proper attention or justice; and

WHEREAS:

Minnesota remains committed to addressing the systemic causes behind disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous relatives. In 2021, Minnesota established the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, dedicated to reducing and ending violence against all Indigenous people in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS:

Minnesota recognizes the voices and roles of the 11 sovereign tribal nations who share geography with Minnesota, federal, state, and local law enforcement, federal and state agencies, and community-based

organizations and advocates in ending this crisis; and

WHEREAS:

This day encourages all Minnesotans to stand in solidarity and awareness of Indigenous victims, survivors,

families, and communities impacted by violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 5, 2023, as:

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 4th day of May.

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