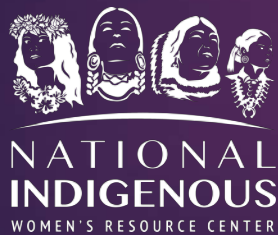


Missing and Murdered Indigenous
Women and Girls
National Day of Action:
Uplifting the Voices of MMIW Families



MAY 5, 2021

Program

Traditional Opening: NaniFay Paglinawan (*Native Hawaiian*), Member, Pouhana O Na Wahine

- ▶ **Welcome: Cherrah Giles (*Muscogee (Creek)*), Chair, Board of Directors, NIWRC**
- ▶ **Voices of the Families**
 - ▶ **Malinda Limberhand (*Northern Cheyenne Tribe*)**
 - ▶ **Velina Guy (*Dine*); Charles Guy (*Dine*)**
 - ▶ **Grace Bulltail (*Crow Nation*) and Yolanda Fraser (*Northern Cheyenne Tribe*)**
 - ▶ **Patricia Whitefoot (*Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation*)**
- ▶ **Voices of Allies: Organizing for Change Through Running**
 - ▶ **Jordan Marie Brings Three White Horses Daniel (*Lower Brule Sioux Tribe*), Rising Hearts Coalition**

Traditional Closing: Juana Majel Dixon (*Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians*), Traditional Councilwoman, NCAI Violence Against Women Co-chair

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Family Members and Relatives participating today:

Malinda Limberhand, mother of Hanna Harris (*Northern Cheyenne*)

Velina Guy, sister, and Charles Guy, brother, of Laverda Guy
(*Diné, Navajo Nation*)

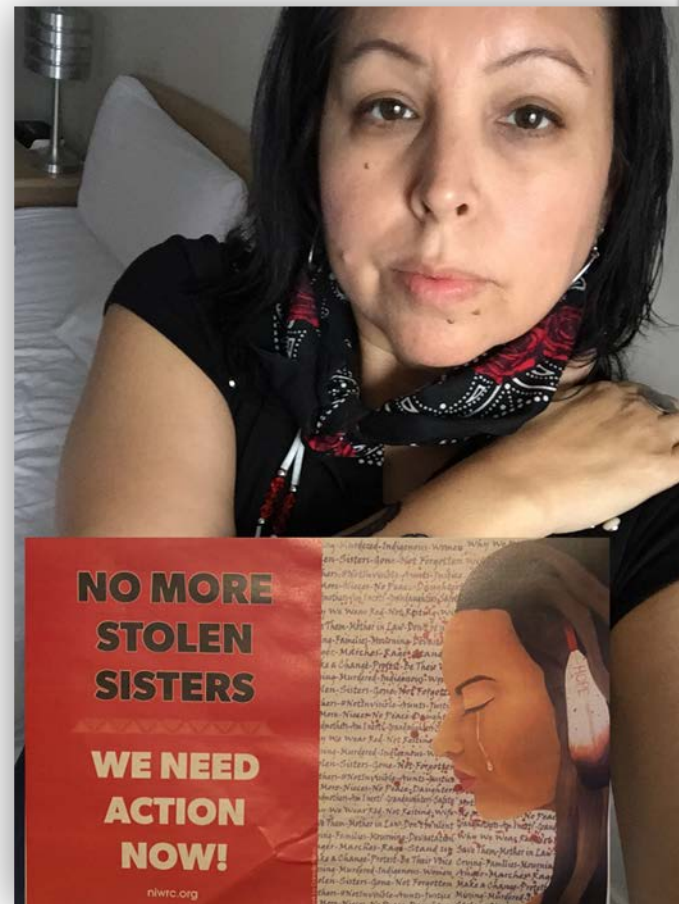
Patricia Whitefoot, sister of Daisy Mae Heath (*Yakama Nation*)

Grace Bulltail (*Crow Nation*), aunt, and Yolanda Fraser (*Northern
Cheyenne*), grandmother of Kaysera Stops Pretty Places

Jordan Marie Bring Three White Horses Daniel (*Kul Wicasa Oyate,
Lower Brule Indian Tribe*)

Rose Quilt (Yakama)
Director of Policy and
Research, NIWRC

*“Native Women
deserve a basic right
to human safety.”*



Welcome Honoring Our Native Women & Girls

A National Day of
Awareness

May 5th, 2021

"While history cannot be undone, changes to current federal policies can increase the safety of Native women to save lives. Before the MMIWG crisis can be fully addressed, it must first be acknowledged."

-Cherrah Giles, NIWRC Board Chair



Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

Public Awareness

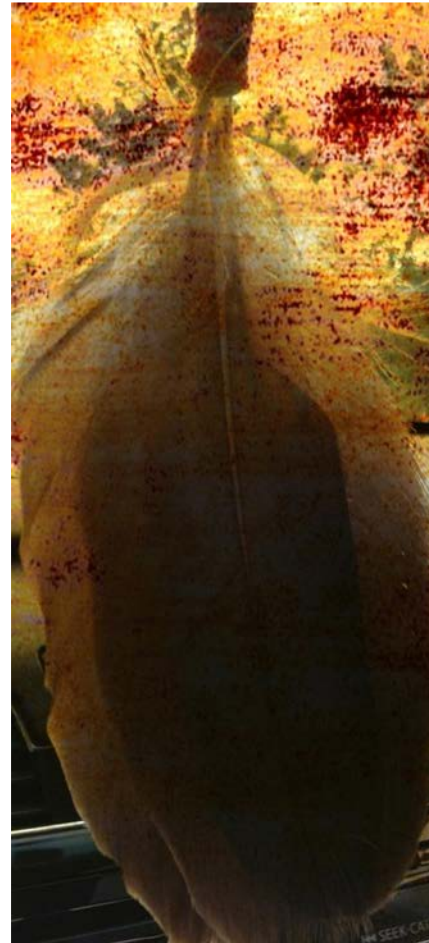


Public Honoring

- ▶ Honor the women
- ▶ Support their loved ones
- ▶ Support community healing

An Alarming Pattern of Missing and Murdered in the U.S.

- ▶ Native women are murdered and go missing at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.
- ▶ Many of these cases are part of the spectrum of violence against Native women.
- ▶ On some reservations women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.
- ▶ 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) homicide is the 6th leading cause of death of Native females between ages of 1-44.





Lack of Consequences for Violent Crimes Against Native Women

- ▶ Native women are vulnerable to a wide spectrum of violence often intersecting with cases of MMIW.
- ▶ The National Institute of Justice reports that more than four in five AI/AN adults (83 percent) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.
- ▶ Among AI/AN women, more than 1 in 2 have experienced physical violence by intimate partners or sexual violence in their lifetime, and more than 1 in 12 have experienced it in the past year.
- ▶ Vulnerability is due in part to the lack of legal consequences reflected in the minimal to zero number of federal prosecutions of domestic violence and sexual assault abusers and sex traffickers.
- ▶ Vulnerability is also due in part to the lack of tribal specific services for Native women and the lack of full authority to protect Native women
- ▶ Due to this reality Indian tribes and Indigenous communities are encouraged to prepare to respond if a woman goes missing.

A Pattern of Failed Systemic Response

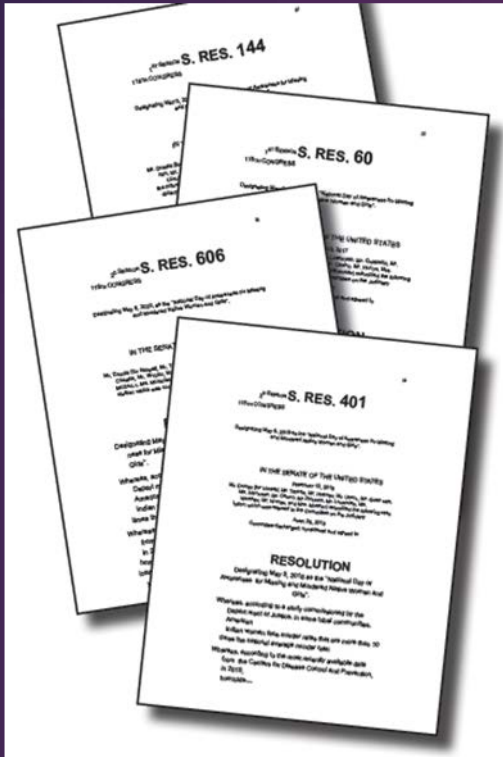
- ❖ Native woman is missing
- ❖ Report is made
- ❖ Inadequate response by criminal system
- ❖ Community search for MMIW
- ❖ Community walk and other social justice actions



Malinda Limberhand, Northern Cheyenne Nation



- ▶ A National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls
- ▶ May 5th is the birthday of my daughter Hanna Harris who went missing on July 4, 2013 and was murdered.
- ▶ Organize for changes needed at the tribal, state, and national level
- ▶ Increase public awareness: wear red, post your efforts on social media
- ▶ Honor our Native women and girls



Organizing for Changes Needed



Organize for the changes needed at the tribal, state, and national levels.



Wear red and post on social media to call for changes needed.

[#MMIWGTakeAction](#) [#NoMoreStolenSisters](#) [#MMIWG](#)

“As a mother, nothing will replace the loss of my daughter but by organizing to support the National Day of Awareness and creating the changes needed I know it will help others. And Hanna and so many others will not be forgotten.”

-Malinda Limberhand



Velina and Charles Guy Navajo Nation



LaVerda Sorrell Missing since July 2002

MISSING PERSON

LAVERDA SORRELL

July 4, 2002
Fort Defiance, Arizona



Photograph taken in 2001

DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: November 26, 1957	Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown	Height: 5'1"
Weight: 110 pounds	Sex: Female
Race: Native American	

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the disappearance of Laverda Sorrell.

REMARKS

Sorrell wears glasses. She previously resided in Navajo, New Mexico.

DETAILS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Albuquerque Field Office is asking for the public's assistance in determining the whereabouts of Laverda Sorrell.

Sorrell's husband reported his wife had been missing since July 4, 2002, when he dropped her off at an office in Fort Defiance, Arizona. A family member reported her missing to the Navajo Police, Window Rock District, on July 8, 2002.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

Field Office: Albuquerque



MISSING PERSON

LAVERDA SORRELL

July 4, 2002
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The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the disappearance of Laverda Sorrell.



Justice for LaVerda



Patricia Whitefoot Yakama Nation



Patricia Whitefoot
Yakima Nation

Justice for Daisy Mae Heath Missing Since 1987



Grace Bulltail and Yolanda Fraser Crow Nation and Northern Cheyenne Tribe



Justice for Kaysera



Jordan Marie Brings Three White Horses Daniel Lower Brule Sioux Nation




Jordan and MMIW Activism

Rising Hearts Coalition



Running For Justice



RUNNING FOR JUSTICE
NO MORE STOLEN RELATIVES
PROTECT THE SACRED
VIRTUAL 5K, 10K, HALF MARATHON

WHEN: MAY 5 - 9, 2021
WHERE: VIRTUAL

5k = \$25 - National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
10k = \$30 - Native Women's Society of the Great Plains
13.1m = \$40 - Rising Hearts
Trifecta = \$60 (split for NIWRC & Native Women's Society)

Run in solidarity! Wear red. Uplift this movement and the heart work.

TAG: @niwrc @rising_hearts on your social media

- Join a team or create a team
- Purchase stickers
- Sponsor a relative/donate an entry
- Options to just donate

Let's continue to build community. Let's show up in whatever way we can. Let's support those in this work and the families. Let's find solutions to ending this epidemic.

“A proud Lakota winyan, running for justice, helping to organize for our communities & elevate our voices.”



“

The system is broken. I lost my daughter and I know my granddaughters face the same danger. We all do.

”

—MOTHER OF A MISSING NATIVE WOMAN FOUND MURDERED

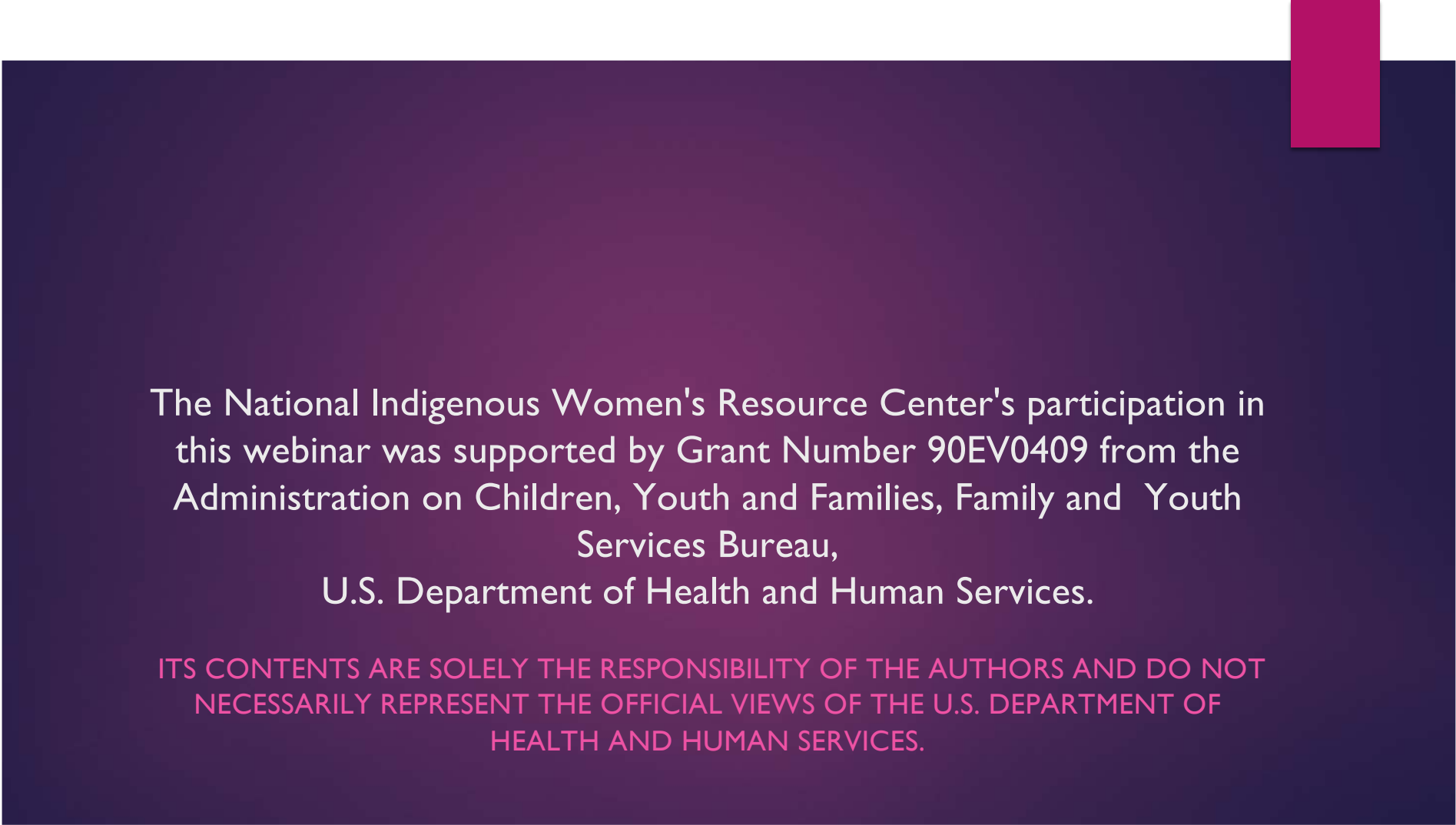
The Missing and Murdered Native Women Crisis

Resources

- ▶ National Indigenous Women's Resource Center: www.niwrc.org
- ▶ Alaska Native Women's Resource Center: www.aknwrc.org
- ▶ Indian Law Resource Center: www.indianlaw.org
- ▶ National Congress of American Indians: www.ncai.org
- ▶ ATCEV: www.atcev.org
- ▶ StrongHearts Native Helpline: <http://www.strongheartshelpline.org/>
- ▶ Jordan's website: www.jordanmarriedaniel.com
- ▶ Running for Justice: <https://events.elitefeats.com/justice2>
- ▶ Senate Resolutions designating May 5, 2019, as the **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls**
- ▶ Subcommittee Hearing: **Unmasking the Hidden Crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW): Exploring Solutions to End the Cycle of Violence** link: <https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings/unmasking-the-hidden-crisis-of-murdered-and-missing-indigenous-women-mmiw-exploring-solutions-to-end-the-cycle-of-violence>
- ▶ Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: **Missing and Murdered: Confronting the Silent Crisis in Indian Country** link: <https://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/missing-and-murdered-confronting-silent-crisis-indian-country>

Additional Resources

- ▶ **READ:** NIWRC's Restoration Magazine (February 2021): <https://www.niwrc.org/restoration-magazine>
- ▶ **DOWNLOAD:** Brochure: When a Loved One Goes Missing - A Quick Reference Guide for What to Do in the First 72 Hours under NIWRC's Resources page
- ▶ **DOWNLOAD:** Pocket Guide: When a Loved One Goes Missing - Understanding and Responding to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, under NIWRC's Resources page
- ▶ **DOWNLOAD:** Poster: Jurisdiction and Crime Victims' Rights, under NIWRC's Resources page
- ▶ **REPORT:** Report from Urban Indian Health Institute: Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States (2018).
- ▶ **REPORT:** CDC Report | Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6628a1.htm?s_cid=mm6628a1_w.



The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center's participation in this webinar was supported by Grant Number 90EV0409 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ITS CONTENTS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

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Thank you
Feel Free to Contact Us

Rose M. “Lashawaat” Quilt, J.D., Director of Policy &
Research, NIWRC

rquilt@niwrc.org

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