



# MISSING OR MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

## BRINGING LOVED ONES HOME

Generations of American Indians and Alaska Natives have mourned missing and murdered loved ones. Their calls for justice and healing through grassroots activism and advocacy have created nationwide attention and increased support for this Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) crisis.

### Community Awareness

Tribal communities and tribal organizations have been calling for change. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR), or other names specific to a tribal community (such as Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives, MMDR, in the Navajo Nation) all refer to this crisis and have resulted in increased attention and support for MMIP.

### Federal Response

New federal laws such as the [reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act](#) (March 2022) and [Savanna's Act](#) (October 2020) are changing law enforcement and justice protocols to better respond to MMIP. State MMIP taskforces and [Operation Lady Justice](#), the federal MMIP taskforce, are bringing together multi-disciplinary teams to improve MMIP coordination and address complex jurisdictional challenges.

The [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System](#) (NamUs) provides technology, forensic services, and investigative support to MMIP cases ([namus.nij.ojp.gov](https://namus.nij.ojp.gov)).

***“When something happens, we’re going to respond, and we’re going to report it. We’re going to stand up and say that it is not okay.”***

Ingrid Cumberlidge, Aleut and Tlingit  
MMIP Coordinator, U.S. Attorney’s  
Office for the District of Alaska

## Federal Funding

[Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside \(TVSSA\)](#) funds can be used to—

- Increase MMIP community awareness.
- Develop MMIP response protocols between multiple agencies and organizations.
- Offer education on the intersections of MMIP with other crimes (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking).
- Promote available healing services for families and survivors.

TVSSA funding is non-competitive. For more details about the types of victim service activities that can be supported through this TVSSA program, [see the fiscal year 2022 TVSSA Program Announcement](#).

Visit [Operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov](https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov) for other federal funding opportunities that tribes and other organizations may be able to use to address MMIP.

## Resources

- [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons](#)
- [Operation Lady Justice](#)
- [The Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center](#)
- [When a Loved One Goes Missing Family Guide](#)
- [Missing Person Clearinghouses](#) in each state
- [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System](#)

Contact the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center

[contact@ovc-htcbc.org](mailto:contact@ovc-htcbc.org) or 1-844-682-0411.