

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Women (MMIW) Toolkit

MAY 5, 2026

INTRODUCTION

May 5th is an annual National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, & Relatives (MMIWGR). MMIWGR is a movement that works to raise awareness about this crisis, seeks to offer support to communities and families with missing and murdered individuals and address the underlying causes of this crisis. In the [Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People](#), this church committed itself to “...advocacy for and being in solidarity with Tribal nations, MMIWGR organizations, families, and friends who have long been searching for their loved ones—Indigenous women, girls, and relatives—who have gone missing or who have been murdered” (4).



This toolkit has been created by the ELCA Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Taskforce for individuals and teams from across and beyond the three expressions of this church to be able to learn more about, and join in the participation of, this National Day of Awareness. Below you will find resources and stories that you are invited to amplify in the spaces you are part of and on platforms you have access to.

This crisis is not limited to one day in the calendar year. The last section of this resource invites you to consider how what your ongoing commitment to name, resist, and participate in, or accompany, healing from the ongoing manifestations of colonization.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

[Download corresponding social media graphics>](#)

Leading up to May 5

Post Option One:

Topic: MMIWGR | The Crisis

Caption: May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, & Relatives (MMIWGR). Understanding the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives, and recognizing the Christian colonial foundations that created an environment that sanctioned this crisis is a place to start a journey of repentance. How will you participate in this day of awareness, mourning, healing, and repentance?

Post Option Two

Topic: MMIWGR | The Movement

Caption: May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, & Relatives (MMIWGR). This phenomenon is certainly a crisis. And, it has become a movement. For generations, led by Indigenous women and communities, people have been speaking up, raising awareness, and fighting for justice for MMIWGR. Leaders have created hastags (#NoMoreStolenSisters), symbols (red hand covering the mouth), and community marches and vigils. How can you support the movement today?



Post Option Three

Topic: Resources & Participation

Caption: May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives and you are invited to participate! You can help raise awareness about this crisis in several ways. Wear the color red on May 5. You can wear something you already have, or consider ordering a t-shirt made in partnership with ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations and Lutheran Men in Mission to wear on May 5—this year, or for future years of awareness.

Check out elca.org/mmiw to find a toolkit with more information on the MMIWGR crisis and movement, and find sample social media posts to spread the word.

Finally, attend the virtual vigil being hosted by Women of the ELCA on May 5 at 7pm. [Facebook: Information and registration here: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/event/a-vigil-for-mmiw-2>. / Instagram: Check out @womenoftheelca for more information.]

Post on May 5

Post Option One

Topic: Participate in the day

Caption: Today is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives. To learn more about this crisis, go to elca.org/mmiw. Follow WELCA on socials to attend the virtual vigil this evening. To spread awareness, wear red and post it on social media with info about MMIW. [Facebook: Share your photos in the comments below! / Instagram: Tag us in a story post of you wearing red for a repost]

Post Option Two

Topic: Racial Justice Ministries Blog

Caption: “Pull quote from the blog.” Read Isabel Retamoza’s blog post on the Racial Justice Ministries page for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives: <https://blogs.elca.org/elcaracialjustice/>

Post Option Three

Topic: WELCA Blog

Caption: “Pull quote from the blog.” Read these blog posts on the Women of the ELCA’s page for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog>

ELCA MMIW T-SHIRTS

The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is a powerful reminder of the urgent need to honor, protect, and stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities. Observed each year on May 5, this day raises awareness about the disproportionate rates of violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. One simple yet meaningful way to show support is to wear red, a color that symbolizes both remembrance and the voices still unheard. By wearing red, sharing information, and engaging in conversations, individuals can help amplify awareness and advocate for justice, respect, and lasting change.

This year, the ELCA’s MMIW Sub-Task Force has a special shirt for all of you. [Order your shirt here.](#)



MOMENTUM

May 5 is only one day out of 365 each year. And Indigenous women, girls, and relatives go missing all the time. So we raise awareness on this day in hopes that we build momentum to keep talking about MMIWGR all year round.

Action One: Follow!

This movement doesn't end on May 5—follow organizations who are doing this work all year round to learn what's going on and how you can help.

[National Indigenous Women's Resource Center](#)

The center's mission and vision is to provide national leadership to help end the violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women by supporting culturally grounded, grassroots advocacy for the restoration of sovereignty and the safety of Native women.

[Sovereign Bodies Institute Sovereign Bodies Institute](#)

Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI) builds on Indigenous traditions of data gathering and knowledge transfer to create, disseminate and put into action research on gender and sexual violence against Indigenous people. It also provides case advocacy and healing resources.

Action Two: Host!

Conversation in community is a crucial tool for spreading awareness, and there are powerful pieces of media and scholarship that has been developed by and with Indigenous communities experiencing this crisis, and leading this movement. Find ideas below:

- With a small group from your congregation or community, plan a book read on *Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many* by Mona Gable. (Purchase the book from Indigenous-owned bookstore, [Birchbark Books](#).)
- Gather a group for a documentary or docu-series watch. Some options are:
 - [Somebody's Daughter](#), directed by Rain
 - [Murder in Big Horn](#), directed by Razelle Benally (Oglala Lakota/Diné) and Matthew Galkin
 - [Finding Dawn](#), directed by Christine Welsh (Métis First Nations)

Action Three: Attend!

In honor of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Day, join leaders and staff from across the ecology of the ELCA as we pray together at the 2026 "Candlelight Vigil for Murdered and Missing Women," written by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy.

[Register here](#).

Action Four: Advocate!

Learn about what's MMIWGR-related policy is being discussed at your state legislature using this [policy tracker](#) from the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. Learn who the issue champions are, and make a plan to engage that is relevant to your social location, resources, and community.



RESOURCES

Learn more about this crisis, and ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, by exploring the resources below:

[ELCA MMIW Page](#)

[One Pager on MMIW](#)

[What is racial justice, racial justice issues | Women of the ELCA:MMIW](#)

[Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women \(MMIW\) Lenten message | Vance Blackfox](#)

[Recording of Webinar: Candlelight Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#)

[Women of the ELCA LIVE Zoom Vigil–open to all](#)

[ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations](#)

[What to Do if Someone Goes Missing](#)

Alaska specific resources:

[Data for Indigenous Justice](#)

[Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center](#)

[Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center: MMIW Resources](#)

[MMIWG Advocacy Film: *One of Our Own*](#)

[MMIWG2S Alaska](#)

[Article on Documentary: *Lost Women of Alaska*](#)