H. R. _____

To establish within the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Omar introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish within the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Britanny Clardy Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:
(1) Black women and girls are uniquely vulnerable and too easily erased from public discussions about missing and murdered people.

(2) According to the National Crime Information Center, in 2020, of the 268,884 girls and women reported missing, 90,333, or nearly 34 percent, were Black, while Black girls and women make up only 15 percent of the female population in the United States.

(3) Nationally, cases involving Black girls and women stay open four times longer than other cases on average, as reported by Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

(4) Nationally, Black women have the highest rates of death due to homicide among women (4.4 per 100,000 compared to 1.5 per 100,000 for White women) and statistically shown these murders are most often committed by an intimate partner or someone the victim knows.

(5) Understanding the roots of how and why Black women and girls are not as well protected from violence as White women and girls requires attention to both historical and present-day manifestations of interlocking systems of oppression, such as racism and sexism.
(6) Effective research regarding the racial inequities surrounding violence against women and girls should—

(A) involve local, relevant community engaged research expertise in the area;

(B) seek to center community members as essential experts through interviews and focus groups with Black women and girls who have lived experience within the topic;

(C) include the use of mixed methods approaches to evaluate, monitor, and communicate data with the broader impacted communities; and

(D) include a long-term evaluation plan to assess the impact of the data collection efforts and involve data specialists or consultants equipped to build tracking and reporting infrastructure.

(7) That considering all the facts above, the existing Federal resources dedicated to combatting violence against women and girls is not enough to address this problem and additional resources must be targeted directly to protecting, supporting and providing justice to Black women and girl in the United States.
SEC. 3. OFFICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS.

(a) Establishment.—There is established within the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls (hereinafter referred to as the “Office”), which shall be headed by a Director appointed by the Attorney General.

(b) Personnel and Funds.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall provide to the Office such personnel and funds as necessary to establish and operate the Office as a component of the Department.

(c) Duties of Office.—The Director of the Office shall—

(1) serve as the legal and policy advisor to the Attorney General to ensure justice for missing and murdered Black women and girls;

(2) develop recommendations for policies to address injustice in the criminal justice system’s response to cases of missing and murdered Black women and girls;

(3) establish a national advisory commission of Black women and girls who have experienced violence, abduction, or trafficking, and family members who have lost a loved one to this violence;
(4) coordinate with the relevant Federal agencies, the national advisory commission established in paragraph (3), State, local, and Tribal agencies, and local family services agencies to—

(A) collect data on missing person and homicide cases involving Black women and girls, including the total number of cases, the rate at which the cases are solved, the length of time the cases remain open, and a comparison to similar cases involving different demographic groups;

(B) collect data on Amber Alerts, including the total number of Amber Alerts issued, the total number of Amber Alerts that involve Black girls, and the outcome of cases involving Amber Alerts disaggregated by the child’s race and sex;

(C) collect data on reports of missing Black girls, including the number classified as voluntary runaways, and a comparison to similar cases involving different demographic groups; and

(D) conduct case reviews and report on the results of such reviews for cases involving miss-
ing and murdered Black women and girls, in-
cluding—

(i) cold cases for missing Black 
women and girls; and

(ii) death investigation review for 
cases of Black women and girls ruled as 
suicide or overdose under suspicious cir-
cumstances.

(5) develop tools and processes to evaluate the 
implementation and impact of the efforts of the Of-

(6) facilitate technical assistance for State, 
local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies during 
active cases involving missing and murdered Black 
women and girls; and

(7) create and maintain a centralized data re-
pository and public dashboard for the tracking of 
missing and Murdered Black women and girls.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the first Jan-
uary 15th after the date of enactment of this Act, 
and biennially thereafter, the Director of the Office, 
in coordination with the relevant Federal agencies 
and State, local, and Tribal agencies, shall submit a
report to the covered committees on missing and murdered Black women and girls, including—

(A) an analysis and assessment of any data collected in subsection (c)(4);

(B) an analysis and assessment on the intersection between cases involving missing and murdered Black women and girls and labor trafficking and sex trafficking;

(C) any findings derived from the case reviews conducted under subsection (c)(4)(D);

(D) an analysis of any case review conducted relating to the prosecution and sentencing for cases where a perpetrator committed a violent or exploitative crime against a Black woman or girl;

(E) reviews sentencing guidelines for crimes related to missing and murdered Black women and girls; and

(F) recommendations for policies to address to the criminal justice system’s response to cases of missing and murdered Black women and girls, including—

(i) the intersection between cases involving missing and murdered Black
women and girls and labor trafficking and
sex trafficking; and

(ii) analyze and assess the intersection
between cases involving murdered Black
women and girls and domestic violence, in-
cluding prior instances of domestic violence
within the family or relationship, whether
an offender had prior convictions for do-
mestic assault or related offenses, and
whether the offender used a firearm in the
murder or any prior instances of domestic
assault.

(2) Covered committees defined.—In this
subsection, the term “covered committees” means
the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee
on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
tives and the Committee on the Judiciary and the
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 4. GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES.

(a) Grant Program Established.—Not later than
180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
Director of the Office shall establish a grant program to
provide grants to community-based organizations that
provide services designed to prevent or end the targeting of Black women or girls or provide assistance to victims of offenses that targeted Black women or girls.

(b) Grant Award.—Community-based organizations awarded a grant under this section shall use the amount awarded under the grant program to—

(1) provide culturally appropriate services designed to reduce or prevent crimes that target Black women or girls;

(2) provide culturally appropriate training related to the handling of situations and crimes targeting of Black women and girls, including training for law enforcement officers, county attorneys, city attorneys, judges, and other criminal justice partners; and

(3) provide victim services or survivorship support to Black women and girls who are victims of crimes or other offenses or to the family members of missing and murdered Black women and girls.