

TSCC NEWSLETTER UPDATES

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EASTERN EDGE COMMUNITY FORUM

MMIW Forum in Yakima, WA. Read More on [Page 2](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ADDITIONAL MEDIA

Check out some local and national conferences coming up, as well as additional media. [Page 3](#).

Welcome!

This month the Tribal State Court Consortium (TSCC) would like to bring your attention to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) for May's National Day of Action and Awareness. You may also see similar acronyms such as MMIP (Persons) or MMIWG (Women & Girls) in other contexts.

This particular movement is focused around the staggering rates of disappearing indigenous people in the United States and Canada. The red hand has become a symbol for the growing MMIW movement representing the missing person voices who have gone unheard.

This month we strongly encourage you to get involved by gaining and spreading awareness of valuable and life-saving information.

All our best,

Tribal State Court Consortium

MMIW INFORMATION & RESOURCES

An overview of information can be located at [Native Hope](#).

Washington State Patrol: Missing Indigenous Persons (MIP) updated [missing persons list](#). As well as WSP MMIWP Task Force [2022 Interim Report](#). You may also sign up for the Missing Indigenous Person Alerts (MIPA) [here](#).

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC): Ongoing education via webinar or in-person events are [here](#). You can also find an [MMIW Toolkit for Families and Communities](#) here as well.

MMIW and Trafficking: "How Can Transportation Stop Traffickers" [article here](#). (Pages 3-9)

Eastern Edge Community Forum
“Indigenous & Endangered: The Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Persons Crisis”

April 28, 2023
Yakima, WA.

Little “swan dancers” dressed in red regalia open up the MMIW forum. Swan Dancers are a Yakama group of young women and girls who are learning their traditional songs, dance and knowledge from their elders.

A beautiful start to a more unsettling topic: *Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women*.

The panelists include: Robyn Pebeahsy, Cissy Strong-Reyes, Margo Hill J.D., Dawn Pullin, Cheri Kilty, Lila Whitefoot, and Patsy Whitefoot.

Washington State has a staggering number of missing people, Yakima is currently at the top of that list. Some issues that were highlighted included:

- Areas of jurisdiction. With reservations consisting of both trust and fee lands it is often a challenge for law enforcement to determine where jurisdiction might reside
- Communication issues between MMIW families and law enforcement
- And, technology driven challenges in rural communities.

When asked if there are any proposed projects or approaches for keeping families and communities safe, the mutual answer was ongoing education. By continuing to educate the youth, law enforcement, and the community, the movement can continue growing and hopefully more answers can be found. Another project that has been implemented is the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Missing Indigenous Person Alert System (MIPA) which has gained some traction since July of 2022--Since its implementation 55 alerts have been sent out.

Some barriers and challenges that are experienced when a loved one goes missing largely includes a lack of communication and transparency between law enforcement and families. Although the communication is getting better, this isn't the case with each family. Strong-Reyes mentioned how she was only reached out to twice in her ongoing case. In order to develop trust between law enforcement and families, ongoing communication is critical.

High emotions filled the room, urgency filled the room—but most important, love filled the room. Losing a loved one to violence is hard on the families, especially when there are limited answers. The strength that the family must carry should be commended as much of the process is still being written.



Colorful shawls representing the women who are gone today.



Left to right: Robyn Pebeahsy, Margo Hill, Dawn Pullin, Cheri Kilty



Left to right: Patsy Whitefoot, Cissy Strong-Reyes, Lila Whitefoot



Missing and murdered indigenous women have disappeared not once, but three times: in life, in the media and in data.



Upcoming Events:

The National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

May 21-24, 2023

Seattle, Washington

The National Consortium on Racial and Fairness in the Courts National Conference and Annual Meeting is a valuable opportunity to gather to discuss current challenges to race equity and racial fairness in the courts and share practical strategies for advancing equal access to courts and eliminating structural, systemic, and institutional barriers to justice through the courts.

More information [here](#).

Women Are Sacred Conference

June 26 – 28, 2023

Albuquerque, NM.

The Women Are Sacred (WAS) Conference is one of the oldest and largest gatherings of advocates, survivors, Tribal domestic and sexual violence programs, Tribal community members, Tribal leadership, law enforcement, and Tribal court personnel dedicated to ending violence against Native American women and children. WAS offers state-of-the-art training and networking opportunities designed to increase the capacity of Tribal nations, Tribal domestic violence, and community-based programs to address violence in Tribal communities.

Register [here](#).

Tribal State Court Consortium (TSCC) Spring Regional Meeting

June 2, 2023

Suquamish, WA.

A joint effort between state and tribal court judicial officers and other judicial branch stakeholders to expand communication and collaboration. We focus on efforts in domestic violence and sexual assault issues, as well as focusing on dependency cases and supporting ICWA standards. The TSCC has an annual regional meeting bringing various stakeholders to the table to discuss barriers that need to be addressed in these areas as well as providing further education.

If you are a Washington State Judge for Clallam, Jefferson or Kitsap counties or a Washington State Tribal Judge, please reach out to Mishani.Jack-Gonzalez@courts.wa.gov to register!

Watch or Listen

[**TEDxYOUTH@SEATTLE**](#)

“RUNNING FOR MISSING AND
MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN”



CLICK TO WATCH:

**We Are Resilient: An MMIW True
Crime Podcast**



CLICK TO LISTEN: