Trigger Warning
Content Warning

Please proceed with caution as this zine has images and content that covers many complex areas within the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.
Genocide

Genocide is not just the immediate destruction of a nation. Polish Jewish scholar Raphael Lemkin sees genocide as a more insidious force, “a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves.” Power and Place, The final report of Canada's inquiry into MMIWG.
“THEY DID NOT KILL THE INDIAN IN ME”


SHE IS ALSO THE DAUGHTER OF MMIW ELSIE MARIE OOCHOO KILLED BY POLICE.
“I felt safer living on the streets than I did in the home that was supposed to be better for me.”

- Mona Woodward
  Sixties Scoop Survivor, Founding Matriarch of Women’s Memorial March
Although thousands of Indigenous People have gone missing or have been murdered, media attention to this violence has been grossly underreported and misrepresented.

Media silence sends a message that our stories are not “newsworthy” and that we do not matter. Inaccurate misrepresentations like mascots, halloween costumes and Pocahontas are dehumanizing racist stereotypes that serve as the foundation of the violence perpetrated on Indigenous Peoples.
725 km of highway in British Columbia that borders twenty-three First Nations reserves.

Indigenous communities estimate that more than 40 indigenous women and girls have gone missing or have been found murdered along The Highway of Tears.
LAND VIOLENCE = BODY VIOLENCE.
TO HONOR AND PROTECT THE LAND IS TO HONOR AND PROTECT OUR WOMEN.
It’s Because of the Starlight Tours

I don’t trust you
I don’t trust cops,
I don’t trust the RCMP
I don’t trust law enforcement

It’s not because you took my grandparents from their parents to Residential School
It’s not because you took me and my sisters and brother from a safe loving homes to white foster homes
It’s not because I was beaten and released and never charged at 17

It’s not because my brother was found dead in the cells
It’s because my sister was found in the field,
It’s because she was taken outside Calgary and left to die
It’s because she was taken out on that remote rural road
It’s because she was taken on the coldest night of the year
It’s because the snow tells the story of her walk of death

The newly fallen snow told that story
The car tracks pulling in, the scuffle marks in the snow of her being dragged from the car
Then the car tracks driving away
The snow showed her walk, and fall, walk and fall, and walk and fall her final fall

It’s because you destroyed all her files, including the death investigation
It’s because you changed the name of formal reports- like she didn’t even exist
she died alone and cold and afraid
and you hid it, you changed it, to cover something up
I don’t trust cops
I don’t trust the RCMP
I don’t trust Law Enforcement

She died alone, cold and afraid.

In honor, love and and memory of
Eleanor “Laney” Ewenin
By Danielle Ewenin
Before colonization, Indigenous Nations had a distinct understanding of gender roles and sexuality, that understanding has been heavily disrupted, so Two-spirit relatives face a lot of discrimination from mainstream society and their communities. Native LGBQT+ and two-spirit folks are disproportionately impacted by violence.

Being marginalized decreases the availability and accessibility of support services. If we continue not to be inclusive, we are participating in causing further harm to our relatives. We can not stand for our relatives to be erased.

We'wha. (John K. Hillers, Image Courtesy of: Smithsonian Institute.)
"Today I will continue to remember her resilience and the legacy she left behind in standing in truth and calling out the corruption and violence that took her life. Individuals to this day continue to ignore the violence at the hands of A.I.M. members that took her life for fear of retaliation, not belonging, not being accepted or just simple ignorance. Globally we are watching as ignorance takes its toll and humanity becomes the cost. Remember we learned moral and ethical codes from our ancestors on how to survive and conduct ourselves and it did not include throwing our own women in a ditch and then holding our tongues for 30 years."

#stayraggedyassed

~ Denise Pictou Maloney, daughter of Annie Mae Aquash
I MISSED YOU TODAY

I MISSED YOU TODAY BUT THAT'S NOTHING NEW, I MISSED YOU A MILLION TIMES YESTERDAY TOO.

I PICKED UP MY PHONE TO TELL YOU THE NEWS, THEN REALIZED, AGAIN, I CAN'T TEXT IT TO YOU.

I SAW YOUR BRIGHT SMILE, AT LEAST TWENTY TIMES, AND THEN I REMEMBER, IT'S ALL IN MY MIND.

I DRIVE WITHOUT PRESENCE, THE WORLD FEELS SURREAL, AND ON COMES YOUR SONG AND THIS DOESN'T SEEM REAL.

I MISSED YOU TODAY BUT I MISS YOU A LOT, IT'S HELPFUL TO MISS YOU, IT'S ALL THAT I'VE GOT.

I WISH I COULD PULL YOU DOWN HERE FOR A WHILE I'M FRIGHTENED TO LOSE THE SHAPE OF YOUR SMILE.

I MISS YOU TODAY AND I'LL MISS YOU TOMORROW, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO COMING END TO THIS SORROW.

I TRY TO GO ON AS I KNOW THAT YOU CARE, I KNOW THAT YOU'RE WILLING ME ON FROM UP THERE.

I MISS YOU TODAY, I MISS YOU EVERYDAY.

POEM BY STEPHANIE SEYMOUR

"THE SILENCE KILLS US DAY BY DAY BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP ASHLEY'S NAME OUT THERE."

-JANINE MORIN, SISTER OF ASHLEY MORIN MISSING SINCE 7/10/2018
“It’s not lost on me that Petito was white, young, and popular on social media. Her name was hashtagged nearly 74 million times (meanwhile, it’s been 923 days since a Shoshone-Bannock Tribal member went missing in the same area). No one should be surprised that Petito’s story gained traction on social media. The vibrant, white, young social media influencer trope is ingrained into our collective consciousness. The news media lit and then fanned the flames of the story by running a stream of almost by-the-minute updates about her disappearance. Her body was found in less than two weeks, because we live in a society that places white women’s victimization above everyone else’s (remember: 923 days missing). White women are protected at all costs.” ~ Tai Simpson
Many perpetrators are given light punishments, this can be due to a lack of resources, a lack of trust in the judicial system by MMIP families, confusion about jurisdiction or because of harmful stereotypes about Indigenous people that lead to biased decisions by judges and prosecutors.

“Not only is the prevalence of murdered Indigenous women disproportionately high, the rate of charges against the perpetrators in these crimes is about 30% lower than it is for non-Indigenous victims.”

"1 in 4 American Indian/Alaska Native men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. More than 475,000 American Indian and Alaska Native men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. This data is not accurate due to the large number of male victims who do not report what happened to them. We are 20 years behind in providing services for males who experience some form of sexual violence. We need to break the stigma so our men can heal."

Lenny Hayes
-Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
INNER FAMILY VIOLENCE

"I DON’T THINK THERE IS ENOUGH DISCUSSION ABOUT THE VIOLENCE WE PERPETUATE ON EACH OTHER THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE MMIP EPIDEMIC. I HONESTLY FEEL AS THOUGH MY COUSIN MAY STILL BE HERE AND MY OTHER COUSIN MAY NOT BE SPENDING THEIR LIFE IN JAIL IF IT WASN’T FOR THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, ALONG WITH DEGRADATION THAT HAS IMPACTED OUR COMMUNITIES DUE TO COLONIZATION. I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD CARRY THE NAME OF MMIP FAMILY MEMBER, AS I’M SURE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE LOT THEIR FAMILY TO INNER FAMILY VIOLENCE FEEL. WE SHOULD BE SEEN TOO. ALL NATIVES DESERVE ADVOCACY AND HEALING FROM THIS LOSS."
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE OVERREPRESENTED WHEN IT COMES TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. IT IS DIFFICULT TO TRACK AN EXACT NUMBER AS MANY VICTIMS EITHER DON'T COME FORWARD OR DON'T REALIZE THEY ARE SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAFETY

You don’t have to be an MMIP family member to have compassion, you don’t have to be an advocate to take action, you don’t have to be Indigenous to show solidarity, you just have to be human. Indigenous rights are human rights. The human in each of us means we are capable of recognizing the sufferings and injustices of people and the planet worldwide. MMIP families should not just survive but should feel empowered to a place of thriving in their communities.
Justice is healing. There is a justice in our hearts" - Laura Oochtsoo

MMIP families have a right to justice
This has been a long journey for me and my family the hurt we had to feel for that year and half it’s unbelievable disbelief I love my family to the fullest I will do anything for them but today I'm just missing my mom extra tryna hold back my tears but it's hurts to need my mom at these times I feel sick she would be right there taking care of me I remember all the times she would would adore me just telling me how much she loved me saying aww babe your so pretty babe I made a beautiful daughter and would just love me everything about me like my fingers everything about me was perfect my mom loved me to the fullest me and my siblings she would kill if anyone harmed us or my family .. till this day we will Fight for justice looking at all these pictures we have at events. I want to thank my aunt in so many ways for her to do what she's doing worldwide and she will never stop. I promise you that and I'm right behind her.

KARMEN STRONG
RESOURCES

CANADA:
Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs
emotional support helpline:
1-844-413-6649

USA:
Sovereign Bodies Institute
NIWRC
Strong Hearts Native Helpline:
1-844-762-8483
Sahnish Scouts of North Dakota
MMIP.families

THIS ZINE IS DEDICATED TO:
The families of Missing& Murdered
Indigenous People
"My sister's murder by a Starlight Tour robbed me of ever knowing my sister because we were separated growing up due to the 60's scoop. I have the stories and memories of my older siblings of her, and only 1 memory myself when I was a young girl, that I hold forever in my heart and spirit"

- Deb Gopher sister of Eleanor "Laney" Ewenin
WEBSITE: SEEDINGSOVEREIGNTY.ORG/MMIP

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