

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 16

Proclaiming May 5, 2025 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Day of Awareness in Multnomah County.

Multnomah County Finds:

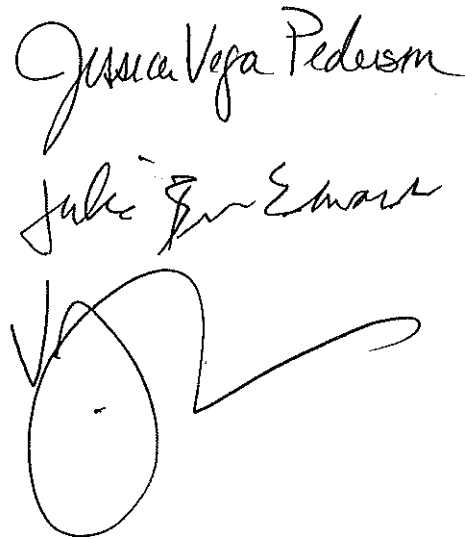
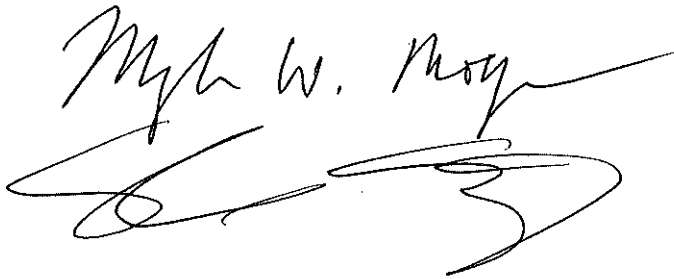
- A. Multnomah County rests on the stolen and occupied homelands and villages of many Indigenous Tribal nations. We acknowledge the genocide, forced removal, and systemic erasure of Indigenous peoples through colonization and the on-going Impacts of colonialism.
- B. The lasting impacts of colonization have created the circumstances the Native community is experiencing. We recognize the survivance, joy, beauty, and strength of Native communities who continue today through a rich culture, beautiful ceremony, the use of decolonizing practices, and the creation of intergenerational healing. Native people are still here today contributing positively to our local communities. The County recognizes the impacts white supremacy has and continues to cause and seeks the opportunity to learn, grow, and restructure based on the teachings from these communities.
- C. It is critical to acknowledge the connection between colonialism and the use of colonial violence against individuals, communities and throughout systems.
- D. Violence against Native people, especially women who are sitting at the intersections of multiple targeted identities including disabled people, unhoused people, and people who have experienced neuro and environmental trauma, is one of many forms of colonial violence that continues to harm Indigenous communities - from children to elders and those in between, violence and trauma impacts our entire community.
- E. Indigenous women, Two Spirit and Indige-Queer peoples, men, youth, and relatives face the highest rates of life threatening, or life ending violence per capita out of any other race and are often unprotected by the American legal system due to racism and jurisdiction challenges as tribes hold a unique and sovereign status.
- F. Indigenous women, Two Spirit and Indige-Queer peoples, men, youth, and relatives are often unaccounted for in colonial law enforcement data systems and there is no database specific to tracking this crisis except for a grass-roots database initiated and kept by the larger Native community.
- G. Indigenous women, Two Spirit and Indige-Queer peoples, men, youth, and relatives are also often misidentified when coming into contact with law enforcement or other programs, resulting in a lack of cross-jurisdictional support services being offered to victims from potential law enforcement, Tribal and community services.

- H. Falling to adequately respond to this crisis through the use of accurate and complete data and coordination across jurisdictions is a continued form of erasure of Indigenous peoples in this country and action must be taken urgently to correct these systems.
- I. Recent Congressional action in 2020 strengthened the federal government's response to the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and relatives crisis: Savannah's Act and the Not Invisible Act. We are grateful for Secretary Haaland who created a new MMIR federal unit and the United States Attorney's Office who recently created an MMIP office to address MMIR cases in the Pacific Northwest. These bills and structural shifts support improvement in reporting databases, communication between jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies, and increase intergovernmental coordination on approaches to address the crisis.
- J. Multnomah County recognizes and elevates the ongoing need to focus resources across the federal, state and local levels to address violence against Indigenous relatives, and stands in solidarity with other governmental jurisdictions, organizations, and Urban Native and Tribal communities in building awareness about this public health crisis.


Multnomah County Proclaims:

The day of May 5, 2025 to be Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Day of Awareness.

SIGNED this 7th day of May, 2025.



REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Meghan Moyer, District 1 Commissioner