



**BRING ACTION AND MORE AWARENESS TO MISSING AND MURDERED
INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALASKA AND NATIONWIDE**

Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #10

Submitted by: Jaylene Philemonoff of Mount Edgecumbe High School, 04/22/22

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

1. **WHEREAS**, in 2016 there were 5,712 “REPORTED” cases of missing American Indian and Alaskan Native women and girls, but there were only 116 cases logged into the DOJ (Department of Justice) database;²
2. **WHEREAS**, Murder is the third-leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women;²
3. **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Alaska is 3rd in the top ten cities of MMIWG cases while Alaska is 4th overall in the United States;²
4. **WHEREAS**, A 2020 survey from the Alaska Department of Public Safety estimated that 57.7% of Alaska women had experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), or both during their lifetime;¹
5. **WHEREAS**, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) identified 506 unique cases of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls across the 71 selected cities; of these 128 (25%) were missing persons cases, 280 (56%) were murder cases, and 98 (19%) had an unknown status;²

6. **WHEREAS**, 66 out of 506 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) cases that UIHI identified were tied to domestic and sexual violence;²
7. **WHEREAS**, In the UIHI survey, the youngest victim was a baby less than one year old and the oldest victim was an elder who was 83 years old;²
8. **WHEREAS**, UIHI was able to identify the victim's relationship to the perpetrator in 24 cases; of these, 13 victims were killed by a partner or the partner of an immediate family member, and three were killed by an immediate family member;
9. **WHEREAS**, Of the perpetrators, UIHI was able to identify 83% were male and approximately half were non-Native;²
10. **WHEREAS**, Thirty-eight of the perpetrators were convicted, nine were never charged, four were acquitted, one had a mistrial, and one committed suicide. Overall 28% of perpetrators were never found guilty or held accountable;²
11. **WHEREAS**, According to Abigail Echo-hawk, chief research officer of Seattle Indian Health Board, "Until there is cooperation and better tracking systems at all government levels, the data on missing and murdered Indigenous women will never be 100 percent accurate, which is what we need to strive for in order to protect our mothers, daughters, sisters, and aunts;"²
12. **WHEREAS**, the state of Alaska does not have an action plan to help lower our numbers of MMIWG, bring justice to perpetrators, and spread awareness of MMIWG;³


THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports bringing perpetrators of violence against American Indian and Native Alaskan women to justice and providing overall awareness of MMIWG in Alaska and nationwide.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, Amos Philemonoff, President of the Tribal Government of Saint Paul Island, will meet with Governor Mike Dunleavy to discuss this resolution and the urgent need to address this tragic reality of life in Alaska.

References

1. *CDVSA Releases 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey Results - Press Releases - PIO - Alaska Department of Public Safety*. (n.d.). Dps.alaska.gov.
<https://dps.alaska.gov/AST/PIO/PressReleases/CDVSA-Releases-2020-Alaska-Victimization-Survey-Re#:~:text=The%202020%20survey%20estimated%20that>
2. *MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN & GIRLS*. (n.d.). <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>
3. Kitchenman, A. (2018, December 7). *Alaska Native groups ask Dunleavy to investigate missing and murdered Indigenous women - Alaska Public Media*. Alaska Public Media.
<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2018/12/07/alaska-native-groups-ask-dunleavy-to-investigate-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women/>

Passed by the 2022 Spring Conference GA hosted by Kodiak High School



AASG Vice President, Kamea VanDeventer



AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson