



Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Tribunal October 3-4, 2019

Aloha. I wish I could be there with you today to join in this historic inaugural event. Thank you to Global Indigenous Council Executive Director, Rain Bear Stands Last, and Blackfeet Nation Chairman, Timothy Davis, for being the driving force behind this event and for your strong leadership.

There's an epidemic happening in the United States. It's one we don't see on the nightly news, one that is vastly under-reported, undiscussed, and occurring in the shadows. Thousands of indigenous women are reported missing or murdered each year, an issue that is disproportionately occurring to them at rates much, much higher than others. In Montana alone, 25% of all missing people are identified as Native American or indigenous, despite being only 7% of the population.

Like any epidemic, we need to address the underlying causes of this violence in order to seek the solutions and answers to the crisis; but like many issues, disturbing stories, and current discriminatory practices against indigenous people within this country, they are often brushed aside or not addressed within Washington. This needs to change.

Native American women and girls are some of the most likely in this country to be raped, assaulted, or murdered. The disproportion is disturbing, but what is also disturbing is the failure of the state and federal governments to properly work with law enforcement agencies and others to properly address and collect data for this crisis. Many of these acts are not reported. There are names of those missing who we do not even know.

As President, I will bring this crisis to light with the recognition it needs, and to allocate the resources to address it, study it, and to end it. I will work with the Global Indigenous Council, the Blackfeet Nation, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, and any other groups needed to address the causes and underlying roots that drive this crisis. As President, I will work with the Department of Justice to make sure that we can provide the resources and fix the bureaucratic flaws that delay, muddy, or outright stop progress. I am currently reviewing the proposed legislation in the House, including Savannas Act, that could address this crisis.

I look forward to meeting and working with you, and moving forward to solve this together. This violence against our women and our girls must end.

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress
2020 Presidential Candidate