ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

April 29, 2022 | 8:30am - 4:00pm
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Artwork by Sarah Agaton Howes

Hosted by:
- Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center
- Center for Women, Gender and Public Policy, University of Minnesota

Sponsors:
- Department of American Indian Studies
- Institute for Advanced Study
- Human Rights Center
- MN Transform
- Race, Indigeneity, Disability, and Gender Studies
- UMN Women’s Center

The Imagine Fund
Welcome!

We are grateful for your presence - whether in person or online - as we gather today for Advocating for Change for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. The epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives is rooted in colonial systems. The establishment of the first statewide task force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women by Minnesota in 2019, coupled with the 2021 Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaskan Natives, provides opportunity for change.

Today, we come together to listen and learn about the ways we can advocate for this change. In today’s sessions, we will explore the deep historical roots of the contemporary problem of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives; grow our understanding of complex jurisdictional issues, law enforcement failures, and flawed social welfare systems; and celebrate the advocates who have made the MMIR federal and Minnesota task forces a reality. We will learn from the intrepid leaders that have advocated for change at local, state, and federal levels, and we will have honest conversations about what needs to be done to ensure that the policy measures taken by state and federal governments result in intentional, systemic solutions.

Throughout our conversations and time together today, we encourage you to care for your needs. A space for breaks with a mental health professional is available, as well as a space for creating art and with informational resources that you can take with you.

Miigwech,

Marisa, Jayme, Christina, and Nicole
Schedule of Events

8:30-9:00  **Registration and Tea**

9:00-9:30  **Opening Remarks - Zoom Room Opens**
Christina Ewig, Welcome
Great-grandmother Mary Lyons, Prayer
Humphrey School Dean Nisha Botchway
Jayme Davis, Words from the Organizers
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Remarks

9:30-9:45  **Video Address: Relocation Revisited: Colonial Roots of MMIWG**
Professor Sarah Deer, introduced by An Garagiola

9:45-10:45  **Keynote Address: Mobilizing to Find the Missing**
Lissa Yellow Bird Chase, introduced by Jayme Davis

10:45-11:00  **Break**

11:00-12:00  **Panel Discussion: State Policy Initiatives Advocating for Change**
Representative Ruth Buffalo, Senator Mary Kunesh,
Nicole MartinRogers*, Roger Smith, Sr.*
Moderator: Nicole Matthews

12:00-1:00  **Lunch - Zoom Room Remains Open**

1:00-1:15  **Video Address: Senator Tina Smith,**
Introduced by Christina Ewig

1:15-2:15  **Panel Discussion: Tribal, State, and Federal Strategies to Address MMIR**
Brian Pottratz, Allison Randall*, Jon Roesler, Juliet Rudie
Moderator: Audrianna Goodwin

2:15-2:30  **Break**

2:30-3:30  **Panel Discussion: Social and Systems Change**
Jessica Gidagaakoons Smith, Greg LeBeau,
Cary Waubanascum Hawpetos*
Moderator: Marisa Cummings

3:30-4:00  **Closing Remarks**
Great-grandmother Mary Lyons
Lyz Jaakola  *

*denotes virtual presenter
Speaker Information

**Ruth Buffalo**  
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, North Dakota District 27 State House Representative

**Sarah Deer**  
Enrolled citizen, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Professor, University of Kansas

**Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan**  
White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota

**An Garagiola**  
Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe, Research Assistant, Office of American Indian and Tribal Nations Relations, UMN

**Audrianna Goodwin**  
Red Lake Band of Ojibwe, Humphrey School Masters of Public Policy Student

**Jessica Gidagaakoons Smith**  
Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe, Legal advocate, Gidagaakoons Advocacy, Consulting, and Research

**Mary Kunesh**  
Standing Rock Lakota descendant, Minnesota State Senator

**Greg LeBeau**  
MSW, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Clinical Social Worker, Social Justice, & Human Rights Activist

**Mary Lyons**  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Author, Humanitarian, Global Wisdom Keeper

**Nicole MartinRodgers**  
White Earth Nation descendant, Research Scientist at Wilder Research
Brian Pottratz
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Human Trafficking Investigator, Leech Lake Tribal Police Department

Allison Randall
Principal Deputy Director, Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice

Jon Roesler
Epidemiologist, Minnesota Department of Public Health

Juliet Rudie
Lower Sioux Community, Director of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office

Roger Smith Sr.
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Dist. III Brookston Representative
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Senator Tina Smith
United States Senator from Minnesota

Cary Waubanascum
Hawpetoss
MSW, Ph.D., Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Assist. Prof., University of WI-Green Bay

Lissa Yellow Bird Chase
Arikara Nation, Founder of Sahnish Scouts

Lyz Jaakola
Nitaa-Nagamokwe
Musician and cultural educator
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Share your thoughts!

We are interested in hearing your feedback on today’s event. We will use your input to ensure our future events meet your needs. You can scan the QR code on the left using a smart phone or device, or enter z.umn.edu/mmir-survey into your web browser.