

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A MISSING AND
3 MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES TASK FORCE.

4
5 WHEREAS, the welfare of New Mexican indigenous women,
6 children and relatives is connected to the broader
7 well-being, health and safety of all New Mexicans; and

8 WHEREAS, the missing and murdered indigenous women and
9 relatives crisis in New Mexico and beyond is inextricably
10 rooted in the larger, complex history of state-sanctioned
11 colonial violence against indigenous people; and

12 WHEREAS, the New Mexico missing persons information
13 clearinghouse data research analysis conducted in New Mexico
14 between 2014 and 2019 reported nine hundred eighty-six
15 missing person cases, ninety-seven percent of which remained
16 unsolved and sixteen percent of which involve indigenous
17 persons; and

18 WHEREAS, the 2019 New Mexico missing and murdered
19 indigenous women task force, established during the 2019
20 legislative session, reported that Albuquerque and Gallup,
21 New Mexico, are among the top ten cities in the United States
22 for the highest number of missing and murdered indigenous
23 women and girls; and

24 WHEREAS, Native American women in New Mexico have the
25 highest rate of homicide victims among all racial and ethnic

1 groups; and

2 WHEREAS, tribal nations across the United States face
3 continued external threats that jeopardize tribal sovereignty
4 and the well-being and safety of indigenous women, children
5 and relatives; and

6 WHEREAS, it is critical that data be accurately reported
7 and captured and that more research be done to fully
8 understand the scope of the missing and murdered indigenous
9 women and relatives crisis to formulate appropriate
10 recommendations for justice; and

11 WHEREAS, law enforcement responses to missing and
12 murdered indigenous women and relatives are impacted by a
13 lack of clarity around jurisdiction, particularly in rural
14 parts of the state where land status varies mile to mile and
15 in urban populations and border towns with large indigenous
16 populations; and

17 WHEREAS, jurisdictional restrictions among tribal, state
18 and municipal boundaries create barriers that restrict the
19 ease of access and accuracy of the information collected and
20 available between agencies when reporting missing and
21 murdered cases; and

22 WHEREAS, the 2019 task force, in partnership with the
23 Native American budget and policy institute, reported to the
24 governor and legislature on the task force findings and
25 recommendations in December 2020, which led to the

1 development of two pieces of legislation for the 2022
2 legislative session; and

3 WHEREAS, during the 2022 legislative session, Senate
4 Bill 12 and Senate Bill 13 both passed and were signed into
5 law. Senate Bill 12 created the missing indigenous persons
6 specialist position within the office of the attorney
7 general. Senate Bill 13 created the annual "missing in
8 New Mexico event"; and

9 WHEREAS, in response to this ongoing crisis, Governor
10 Michelle Lujan Grisham signed Executive Order 2021-013, which
11 created the New Mexico missing and murdered indigenous women
12 and relatives task force after the task force that was
13 created during the 2019 legislative session reported its
14 findings and recommendations to the governor and the
15 legislature and was ended; and

16 WHEREAS, the 2021 task force was created to develop a
17 state response plan addressing systemic changes that support
18 prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents of
19 missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives; and

20 WHEREAS, the 2021 task force developed a state response
21 plan and in May 2022 released that plan, which outlined steps
22 that all stakeholders must take to address the crisis in
23 New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, on October 19, 2023, *New Mexico In Depth* first
25 reported that the missing and murdered indigenous women and

1 relatives task force had been ended, leaving questions
2 unanswered;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the attorney general be requested to
5 convene a missing and murdered indigenous women and relatives
6 task force and house it within the office of the attorney
7 general; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be created to
9 update the 2022 state response plan and provide ongoing
10 legislative recommendations on how to address the missing and
11 murdered indigenous women and relatives crisis in New Mexico;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of no
14 more than forty members appointed by the attorney general,
15 with the attorney general or the attorney general's designee
16 serving as the chair; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership
18 include the following:

19 A. no more than ten representatives from the
20 department of public safety, including the department's
21 missing persons clearinghouse; the children, youth and
22 families department; the office of the attorney general; the
23 United States bureau of Indian affairs; the United States
24 bureau of Indian affairs' office of justice services; the
25 New Mexico sheriffs' association; and the municipal police

1 departments of the cities of Albuquerque, Gallup, Farmington
2 and Santa Fe;

3 B. two legislators, including one senator and one
4 representative nominated by the majority floor leaders of the
5 house of representatives and senate and who serve on any of
6 the following legislative interim committees: the committee
7 that studies courts, corrections and justice, the committee
8 that studies Indian affairs and the legislative health and
9 human services committee;

10 C. no more than three pueblo representatives from
11 a northern pueblo, a southern pueblo and the all pueblo
12 council of governors;

13 D. no more than two representatives from the
14 Jicarilla Apache Nation;

15 E. no more than two representatives from the
16 Mescalero Apache Tribe;

17 F. no more than three representatives from the
18 Navajo Nation office of the president and vice president, the
19 Navajo Nation council or representatives of Navajo Nation
20 chapter houses;

21 G. no more than five representatives from an urban
22 Indian center; a local nongovernmental organization that
23 provides counseling services to indigenous people who have
24 been victims of violence; a statewide or local
25 nongovernmental organization that provides legal services to

1 indigenous women and girls who have been victims of violence;
2 a local nongovernmental organization that provides direct
3 services to homeless individuals; or a local nongovernmental
4 organization that provides direct services to survivors of
5 sex trafficking;

6 H. no more than four representatives from other
7 nonprofit organizations not mentioned in Subsection G of this
8 resolving clause;

9 I. no more than five representatives who are
10 indigenous survivors of violence or family members of an
11 indigenous relative who has been a victim of violence;
12 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
13 questioning and two-spirit plus community; and indigenous
14 youth; and

15 J. no more than four representatives who have
16 experience working as a tribal prosecutor, a tribal criminal
17 investigator, a tribal emergency dispatcher, a tribal police
18 chief or a tribal social worker or program director; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members serve
20 at the pleasure of the attorney general and shall not be
21 compensated for their service, other than for per diem for
22 members traveling more than one hundred miles to the
23 designated meeting location or for contractual services that
24 the attorney general deems necessary, subject to
25 appropriations; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the attorney general, the twenty-three federally recognized Native American tribes of New Mexico and the governor.
