

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE May 3, 2021**



**Media Contact:**  
**WSWC Commissioner, Vicki Lowe**  
**360.460.3580**  
[vicki.lowe.aihc@outlook.com](mailto:vicki.lowe.aihc@outlook.com)

**The Washington State Women's Commission hosts NO MORE STOLEN SISTERS: A discussion for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to discuss the newly established Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force through the Washington Attorney General's Office.**

OLYMPIA, Wa. –

"Since 2017, grassroots actions on May 5th to honor and call for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) have increasingly grown at the local, regional, national, and international level. Native families, advocates, and Indigenous nations continue to rise up to challenge the silence, tolerance, and inaction in response to the crisis of MMIWG." (From the National Indian Women's Resource Network <https://www.niwrc.org>)

In observance of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, the Washington State Women's Commission is proud to host a panel entitled "NO MORE STOLEN SISTERS: A discussion for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to discuss the newly established Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force through the Washington Attorney General's Office.

This conversation will be moderated by Commissioner Vicki Lowe, who will be joined by Representative Debra Lekanoff of the 40th legislative district; Patricia Whitefoot, President of the National Indian Education Association; and Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director, Urban Indian Health Institute and Executive Vice President, Seattle Indian Health Board. We look forward to hearing the insights and calls to action from these four Indigenous women leaders.

Representative Lekanoff indicated "I am honored to join my sisters to fight the crisis of MMIW. We have a powerful unified voice to work with local, state, federal and tribal governments to build policy, laws and programs that are fully funded and supported by all. We have heard messages from across this great nation stating that we must develop better processes for data collection and management and integrate cultural teachings to better work with and collaborate with survivors, families, tribal nations and all levels of law enforcement. Because even one girl missing is too many, and we must all heal together."

Governor Inslee added "It is so important we have these discussions and continue to seek solutions and justice for women from Indigenous communities. This is truly a grassroots, community-minded movement. I have deep appreciation for the family members and friends of those murdered and missing who have given momentum to this movement and created hope for many more that they may get justice and some sense of closure."

This event is free and open for the public to attend. No RSVP is necessary. The community conversation will be held remotely via Zoom video conference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85899987983?pwd=S3E4cDBVaFV3VC92RVczcHk2bVpNdz09>

Members of the media are welcome to participate in this event. To schedule additional