

## ***About Red Dress Day***

May 5 in Canada is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and also “Red Dress Day,” started in 2010 by Jaime Black, a Metis artist. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REDress\\_Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REDress_Project)

The Canadian government performed a national inquiry which gathered evidence and testimonies across the country from the families of MMIWG. It released its final report in 2019, including strong positive recommendations: action plans for our governments, and personal calls to action. From [the report's executive summary](#) page 85-86:

We call on all Canadians to:

- Denounce and speak out against violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- Decolonize by learning the true history of Canada and Indigenous history in your local area. Learn about and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' history, cultures, pride, and diversity, acknowledging the land you live on and its importance to local Indigenous communities, both historically and today.
- Develop knowledge and read the *Final Report*. Listen to the truths shared, and acknowledge the burden of these human and Indigenous rights violations, and how they impact Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people today.
- Using what you have learned and some of the resources suggested, become a strong ally. Being a strong ally involves more than just tolerance; it means actively working to break down barriers and to support others in every relationship and encounter in which you participate.
- Confront and speak out against racism, sexism, ignorance, homophobia, and transphobia, and teach or encourage others to do the same, wherever it occurs: in your home, in your workplace, or in social settings.

- Protect, support, and promote the safety of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people by acknowledging and respecting the value of every person and every community, as well as the right of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to generate their own, self-determined solutions.
- Create time and space for relationships based on respect as human beings, supporting and embracing differences with kindness, love, and respect. Learn about Indigenous principles of relationship specific to those Nations or communities in your local area and work, and put them into practice in all of your relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- Help hold all governments accountable to act on the Calls for Justice, and to implement them according to the important principles we set out.

### ***Suggested Resources for Allyship***

Amnesty International. "[10 Ways to Be a Genuine Ally to Indigenous Communities.](#)"

Dr. Lynn Gehl. "[Ally Bill of Responsibilities.](#)"

Indigenous Perspectives Society. "[How to Be an Ally to Indigenous People.](#)"

Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network. "[Indigenous Ally Toolkit.](#)"

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The dress image is by [Sinisa Maric](#) from [Pixabay](#)

We stand with our neighbours  
to honour  
**Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls**

A red dress silhouette is centered on the page. It is a strapless, form-fitting dress with a flared skirt, rendered in a solid red color against the black background.

**#MMIWG**