



Monday, October 4th, 2016

On October 4, 2016, we join family members and community members in honoring the over 1200 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls on Turtle Island. Violence against Indigenous women and girls is a central pillar that upholds the ongoing settler colonial violence, dispossession and genocide that Indigenous communities are resisting on an ongoing basis. Indigenous women and girls face life-threatening, gender-based violence and disproportionately experience violent crimes because of the intersections of white supremacist settler-colonial hetero-patriarchy and anti-Indigenous racism. They also experience a disproportionate level of state-induced violence. Statistics indicate that Indigenous women 15 years and older are at least three-and-a-half times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women, and have a homicide rate seven times higher than non-Indigenous women.¹

We offer our respects and our remembrance to help honor the memories of our stolen sisters alongside their families.

The Sisters in Spirit campaign is a call to action and a joint campaign of the Native Women's Association of Canada, Amnesty International, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Native Association of Friendship Centers, and the Canadian Federation of Students. APUS supports the campaign and we offer our commitment to challenge the settler colonial violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls generally. We condemn this intersecting violence of racism, colonialism and misogyny.

The call to action does not just stop here; we must continue the call for a comprehensive national action plan to stop violence against Indigenous women and girls. We encourage our federal representatives to implement a national inquiry into the over 1200 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. We encourage the reversal of cuts to funding to the Native Women's Association of Canada and other Indigenous organizations. We also call upon our federal representatives to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We call on community members and allies to support Indigenous organizing within Turtle Island to further these goals.

The Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto will be holding a Sisters in Spirit Vigil with a variety of activities at Allan Gardens Park on October 4 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. This event is one of many taking place across Turtle Island today.

We encourage members of APUS and all members of our community to participate in this or other similar vigils. Please see [here](#) for more details about vigils in your community.

In solidarity,
The APUS Executive Committee

¹ <https://www.metrac.org/missing-and-murdered-aboriginal-women-in-canada/>