

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the State of Washington joins the Washington State Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault-Women Spirit Coalition, Washington tribes, and supporting organizations in support of promoting awareness and securing justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous women go missing and are murdered at rates higher than any other ethnic group in the United States, Indigenous women are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault, and nearly half of Indigenous women in the United States have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Disease Control reports that homicide is a leading cause of death for Indigenous women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, the experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking directly increase the likelihood that an Indigenous woman will be murdered or go missing; and

**WHEREAS**, an accurate count of how many Indigenous women are affected is difficult to determine, making the scope of the epidemic uncertain; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous women are worthy of personal sovereignty and equal protection under the law;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington State, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2019, and each following year, as

### ***Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Day***

In Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

