

Say Their Names #MMIWG

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS in Canada are disproportionately affected by violence and are over-represented in the overall incidence of women that are murdered and go missing. This crisis is a result of the legacy of colonialism and the ongoing racism experienced by Indigenous Peoples compounded by gender based discrimination that is so foreign to Indigenous cultures. The trauma and intergenerational impact of the residential school system has also contributed to the social, political, and economic marginalization of Indigenous Peoples.



Photo Glen Hansman

- The movement to bring attention to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to make positive change for safer communities has been driven by Indigenous families and communities for over 50 years.
- Until very recently, "mainstream Canada" has ignored or minimized the impacts of systemic colonialism, racism, sexism, and discrimination that have created the conditions under which violence against Indigenous girls and women has reached epidemic proportions.



FACTS:

- In the words of **James Anaya**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the prevalence of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada are of "**epidemic**" proportion.
- The homicide rate of Indigenous victims in 2017 was reported to be **six times** that of non-Indigenous females. Indigenous women had an overall frequency of violent victimizations that was double that of Indigenous men, and close to **triple** that of non-Indigenous women. (*Department of Justice*)
- The likelihood of Indigenous women and girls being murdered or going missing is much higher than previously thought, according to a study done by Maryanne Pearce and Tracey Peter, Associate Professors at the Department of Sociology, U of Manitoba. Pearce and Peter found that Indigenous women and girls are **12 times** more likely to be murdered or go missing than any other women in Canada, and **16 times** more likely than Caucasian women.
- While Indigenous women comprise only **4%** of all women in Canada, they make up 28% of homicide victims. In 2019, of **144** women killed in Canada, **40** were Indigenous.
- Indigenous women are sexually assaulted **three times** more often than non-Indigenous women, and most of the women and children trafficked in Canada are Indigenous.



Use this template to make your own red felt dress.



By taking collective responsibility for safety, and by educating Canadians about the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls, we can effect real change. ... Indigenous women and girls have a right to feel safe in their homes and communities and wherever they live across the country. They have human rights that must be upheld so that they can achieve their dreams and use their gifts, talents, and skills to benefit their families, communities, and all of Canada. They have the right to the peaceful enjoyment of their lives. Our collective action can make all of this a reality. By confronting racism, sexism, stereotypes, and myths, change is possible.

—Charlene Bearhead, Their Voices Will Guide Us

#REDress



Jaime Black, a Métis artist, launched The REDress Project in 2014 to bring awareness to the national issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.
jaimeblackartist.com

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO EDUCATORS:

Their Voices Will Guide Us

www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NIMMIWG-THEIR-VOICES-WILL-GUIDE-US.pdf

Missing Nimama

www.strongnations.com/search/?s=missing+nimama

OTHER LINKS

twitter.com/artful_VP/status/915610489014636544/photo/1

hashilthsa.com/news/2019-09-03/lil%E2%80%99-red-dress-project-spreads-awareness-raises-money-missing-and-murdered

lilreddressproject.ca/main/

consideringcoldcases.wordpress.com/2017/09/23/highway-of-tears-full-and-detailed-list-27-cases-22-unsolved



The Government of Canada has set up a national, toll-free crisis line, to provide support for anyone who would like assistance. This line is available free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Service is available in English, French, Cree, Anishinaabemowin (Ojbiway) and Inuktitut.

Please call 1-844-413-6649 if you or someone you know needs help or support.

TIPS FOR MAKING RED DRESSES WITH A GROUP

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- starched red felt—usually available at Michaels and Dollar stores (regular felt won't work as too flimsy)
- photocopied dress tracers
- small broach fasteners
- dress pins (optional)
- sewing needles (small enough for your beads)
- thread—red or black
- variety of seed and other beads
- sequins that can be stitched on
- your choice of other items that can be sewn onto a dress

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Photocopy templates—using card stock will make durable tracers.
- Using **double thick felt**, trace and cut out dress shapes (you need to use double thick felt to create a sturdy broach.)
- If you are sewing your broach fastener onto the back of your broach (which is recommended), do this first on the back of ONE of the dress pieces before sewing the two pieces together—you can use a hot glue gun to apply the broach fastener, but it doesn't last as well as stitching.
- Once your broach fastener is applied, carefully line up the edges of your "dresses" (use a dress pin to hold the pieces together if desired) and sew all around the outer edge of the dress.
- See photographs below for examples of stitching.



Note: If you wish to make a display with your red dresses, leave the bottom of the dresses unstitched so you can stand them up by putting them over something like a tiny glass bead jar, cork, rock, etc., as was done for the displays pictured on this page.

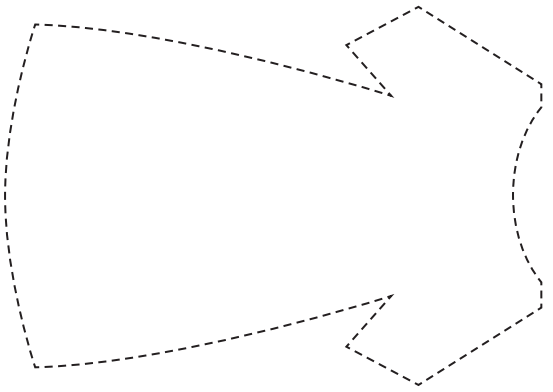
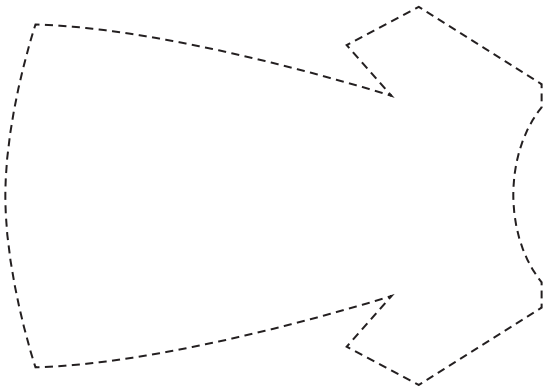
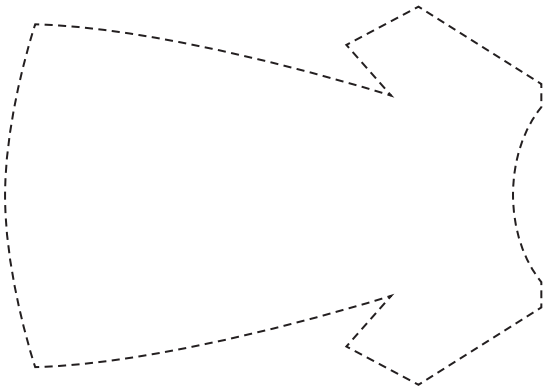
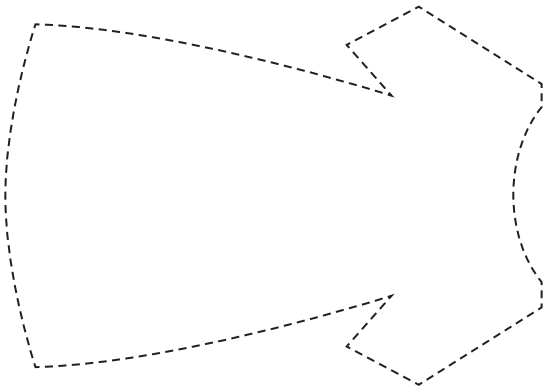
Design your dress however you wish by sewing on seed beads, other beads, sequins, feathers, or anything else you wish. A few decoration examples are provided on this page, along with ideas for displaying your dresses.

Thank you for taking part in this important initiative to raise awareness.



LUIS ISODORO PHOTOS





Please cut out dress templates along dotted lines.

