



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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## Navajo Nation recognizes Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day to heal, restore, and reunite families

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, First Lady Phefelia Nez, and Second Lady Dottie Lizer signed a proclamation on Thursday, recognizing May 5, 2022, as "Navajo Nation Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day" during Navajo Transitional Energy Company's "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman Awareness Week – Empowering Women" event in Window Rock, Ariz.

"Today, we extend our appreciation to our partners and volunteers, who work hard to shine light on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives throughout Indian Country, including the Navajo Nation. Many families know the personal heartbreak and trauma of missing loved ones, and we think of them and pray for them today. We can set a new tone of hope and healing for families and communities through awareness and support," said President Nez.

The proclamation states, "The Navajo Nation recognizes the unsolved cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples" and, "We remember and honor Indigenous people, surviving families, who have lost their loved ones to murder and who remain missing. We offer our commitment, support, and prayers."



"To meet the urgency of this problem, it is also crucial to focus on preventative efforts to restore, reunite, and heal families. As leaders, we have to invest in and continue our community-based projects and programs that help Navajo families and children to help prevent and offset the impacts of social issues. We must all contribute to creating a safer and healthier environment for our children and vulnerable populations. We also need to support comprehensive law

enforcement, prevention, intervention, and support services to help address missing and murdered Indigenous people," said First Lady Nez.

During the event, President Nez and First Lady Nez also presented a new Navajo Nation Missing Persons poster to increase awareness of bringing loved ones home. Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety reported that approximately 59 individuals on the Navajo Nation have been missing since the 1970s, including 15 females and 44 males. The poster will be periodically updated and distributed among local communities and posted within the seven Navajo Nation police districts throughout the Nation.

The proclamation further states, "The Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety reaffirms its' commitment to establish a Missing Persons Unit and to increase internal and external collaborations and develop strategies to address domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and missing persons."

Since Monday, the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, along with the Navajo Nation Police Department and Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral and Mental, provided situational awareness and self-defense workshops in all five Navajo Nation agencies to empower women. Workshops included presentations on building healthy relationships, learning self-defense techniques, and learning how to reach for help and resources.

"We have heard many stories and firsthand accounts of our people who have gone missing and murdered, and many families continue to suffer from the resulting trauma and heartache. We are hopeful that awareness and collaboration will lead to justice, closure, and healing for many of our people. Violence continues to impact our families and communities, and we must be there for each other as grandparents, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters. Today, let's remind ourselves to check on our families, neighbors, and all relatives. Together, we can protect each other and not lose another relative to violence," said Vice President Lizer.

"The recognition of the long-overlooked issue of missing and murdered Indigenous People is being addressed with partnerships to enhance public awareness and address the root causes. Through the federal government's recognition by laws and executive orders such as Operation Lady Justice and Savanna's Act & Not Invisible Act, our Navajo Nation will continue to partner with local, state, and federal agencies to take action on the critical steps to heal and protect our Navajo citizens. Together, we can end the issue of missing and murdered Native Americans," said Second Lady Lizer.

For more information regarding missing persons on the Navajo Nation, visit the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety website at [www.npd.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.npd.navajo-nsn.gov). Anyone with possible information on any of the Navajo Nation missing persons whereabouts is encouraged to call the Navajo Police Department Tip Line at (928) 686-8563 or email tips to [tips.npd@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:tips.npd@navajo-nsn.gov).

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## THE NAVAJO NATION

# *Proclamation*

### RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2022 AS “NAVAJO NATION MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AWARENESS DAY”

**WE**, the Navajo Nation, recognize the unsolved cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples who seek and pray for justice, harmony, and healing. We remember and honor the Indigenous people, and surviving families, who have lost their loved ones to murder and who still remain missing. We offer our commitment, support, and prayers.

**WHEREAS**, the National Crime Information Center reported in 2016 that over 5,700 Native American Women and Girls were classified as missing while at the same time the United States Department of Justice missing person data base reported only 116 missing Native American Women and Girls; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans Women and Girls murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average; these murders are most often linked to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking and are left unsolved with no justice for the victims and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, this injustice highlights the need to for advocacy and changes to laws and policies at the tribal, local and federal level and the increased need for resources at all levels to address this on-going concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety reaffirms its' commitment to establish a Missing Persons Unit and to increase internal and external collaborations and develop strategies to address domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and missing persons; and

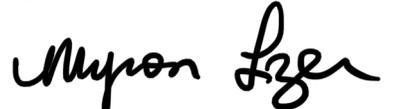
**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that increased awareness and education is crucial to understanding and eliminating violence against vulnerable populations within the Navajo Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, through the efforts of surviving families and advocate groups, we call on Navajo citizens to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered Navajo persons and to demonstrate solidarity with the families of victims in light of those tragedies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ**, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice-President of the Navajo Nation, with First Lady **Phefelia Nez**, Second Lady **Dottie Lizer**, do hereby proclaim and recognize May 5, 2022 as “Navajo Nation Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day.”

**PROCLAIMED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2022**

  
Jonathan Nez, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

  
Myron Lizer, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

  
Phefelia Nez, *First Lady*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

  
Dottie Lizer, *Second Lady*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**