



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: American Indians make up approximately 1.1% of the Minnesota State's population; and
- WHEREAS: The Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force Report to the Minnesota Legislature released in December 2020 found that from 2010 through 2018, American Indian women and girls represented 8% of all women and girls murdered in Minnesota, and in any given month during that period, between 27 and 54 American Indian women and girls in Minnesota were missing; and
- WHEREAS: Indigenous women, girls, men, boys, LGBTQI+, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming people continue to be targeted for murder, exploitation, and abduction in Minnesota's urban, rural, and reservation populations, disappearing at alarming rates with very little public visibility and justice; and
- WHEREAS: This is an ongoing crisis that affects Indian Country, on and off the reservation, in urban and rural communities, where 97% of Native women and 90% of Native men who experience violence are victimized by an interracial perpetrator; and
- WHEREAS: Indigenous women continue to experience the highest rates of sexual assault and rates of domestic violence-up to 10 times higher than all other women in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS: There is no comprehensive estimate for the number of Indigenous people who are missing or have been murdered since the beginning of colonization; and
- WHEREAS: The history of colonization and ongoing systemic racism have increased the prevalence and impact of poverty, unsheltered homelessness and housing instability, incarceration, and/or violent relationships at a higher rate than non-Native Americans; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is committed to spreading awareness of our Indigenous women, girls, men, boys, and LGBTQI+, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming relatives who have gone missing or have been murdered, tortured, raped, trafficked, and assaulted, and those who have not had the proper attention or justice; and
- WHEREAS: We act in solidarity with our Canadian Indigenous Relatives and their MMIW movement, and we recognize February 14 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Awareness Day, always seeking to build upon and support our Indigenous communities to stop this epidemic and heal within our communities and as a State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 14, 2022, as:

### MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE