



# **Seeking Justice for Missing and Murdered Native Women**

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I present to you one woman's testament  
About acknowledging a crisis where 1181 is the new  
estimate

What is this number you might ask?  
It's the number of missing and murdered Native women  
the government tries to mask

For some this might be a shock  
For others it's an everyday walk

Families mourning the ones who have passed  
Others hoping the last time they saw them wasn't their last

Some might have heard of the diseased pig farmer whose  
name does not merit mention  
Yes, for many Native peoples this brings about a  
discomforting tension

So please remember the names of the valued women who  
the media insufficiently cover  
Such as Brenda Wolfe a wonderful and strong Aboriginal

women and mother

Or Georgina Papin who loved her culture and was great at  
baking

And moccasins and dream catchers you could find her  
making

Or Sherry Irving who was known for her love of rock  
music and having fun

And whose heart so beautiful she sparkled like the sun

Or Tanya Marlo Holyk who liked basketball, and other  
sports

And who loved to read and enjoyed doing book reports

Or Mona Wilson the youngest of five and so very smart  
And as her brother explained—she had a true love in her  
heart

Or Dawn Crey who loved her son so much  
Whose braveness and strength—and many hearts she did  
touch

These are real women whose stories are not always told  
Do not buy into what the media might have sold

These women are mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, and  
wives

People who are beautiful and deserve to live out their full  
lives

Violence affects our women disturbingly way too much  
More likely to be stalked, raped, and unwantedly touched

Seven times more likely to become homicide prey  
And much more likely to be violated against our will in  
some way

Three times more likely to be killed by a stranger  
Yes, for Native women this exists as a true danger

We are three times more likely to become a victim of a  
violent crime  
But let me tell you—this is not reflective of traditional  
time

Violence against our women was never traditional  
In fact, our women were leaders in what is medicinal

Before the wrath of colonization hit  
We had central roles, and on our traditional councils we  
would sit

Women across Turtle Island had many talents  
We made major decisions and lived in balance

But it doesn't stop there  
All Native peoples have an inner drive to care

Yet Patriarchy came in like a violence disease  
As soon as those deeply sick people crossed those seas

It happened right from the start  
All of the explorers played a part  
They arrived with an ingrained notion of superiority  
Then set out to make Native peoples a minority

They did it by disease and direct killing  
Then surveyed our land for the tilling

Miguel Cuneo accompanied Columbus on his second trip  
across the sea  
Some of you might wonder—well who is he?

Well Columbus “gifted” him with a Native woman for  
whom he had lust  
Telling him he could do whatever he must

Cuneao in his own words said he had thrashed and forced  
rape  
And found humour in her trying to escape

And what is it hidden behind a rhetoric of excuses?  
It is these people who are held as heroes—ones who have  
committed atrocious abuses

They claimed land that wasn’t for sale  
They ripped through our communities honoring the white  
violent male

In the name of the church the children they did steal  
Forcing them into residential schools where they would  
struggle to get a decent meal

Children taken right from the hands of mom and dad  
Where hair was cut and they destroyed anything they had  
Abuses against children reached epidemic heights  
With priests and administrators who went lurking in the

nights

Although the doors of the schools are now shut  
The legacy of trauma continues like an open cut

Genocidal policies and laws such as the Indian Act  
Make it seem like governments have formed some sick  
pact

Enough putting up with the government's ridiculous shit  
Like Idle No more proclaimed we are no longer going to  
be on the couch and sit

The Mohawks at Tyendinaga have been protesting for an  
inquiry  
Demanding justice and truth to be spoken in its entirety

And although you might think this does not affect you in a  
direct way  
Remember we are all related—so what role are you  
willing to play?

Attend a vigil or say a prayer  
But please, don't just walk away or simply stare

Remember all these are our sisters and it's not too late  
Such as Maisy and Shannon who have been missing since  
2008

Maisy Odijick is known for being helpful and sharing  
And like her aunty Maria explained—she is very caring  
Shannon Alexander—kindhearted and strong

But these two girls have been missing for way too long

Gone missing without a trace

And yet it took two weeks for the media to even cover  
their case

Families and parents struggling to get support from the  
police

Maisy's Aunt Maria—started a website to find her niece

And for those who choose to turn a blind eye

What is it you tell yourself—some kind of lie?

For those that argue stories are too hard to hear?

I say, try living every day in pain and fear

I challenge you to put yourself in another's shoes

Such as one of these women's kids or moms—what do  
you have to lose?

Perhaps your own privilege you might have to face

Yes, this might be the case

But please don't shy away

Take a stand, join and stay

Raise awareness—and justice please demand

Let everyone know in your own way—you are taking a  
stand

And although the government is still replying with shuns

Remember beautiful women—we miss you tons