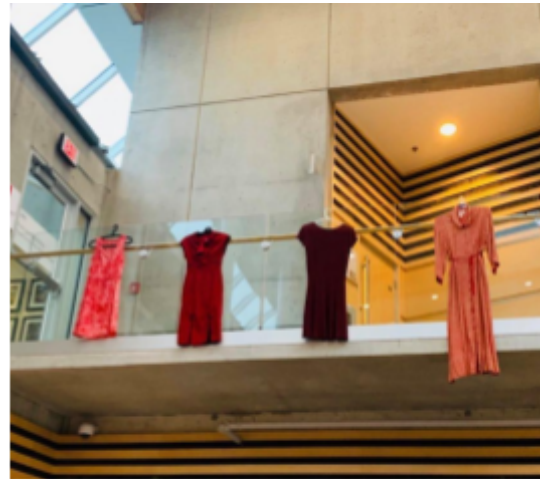


May 5, 2021

Trigger Warning: Sexual violence, harm, abuse, murder, death

We must acknowledge that we all work and study together on the Unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem), and Katzie Nations. It is important to note that this land acknowledgment is not a remark, however, an obligation to knowing and recognizing the true history and current state of settler canada. Furthermore, the history of these Territories is embedded in colonization and as settlers and uninvited guests, we must listen and give space in order to show respect and honor the stories, practices, culture, and history of Indigenous People(s). We send strength and solidarity to Indigenous communities not just today but every day and recognize the ongoing harms that have occurred.



Memorial Day, 2019

History

May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Trans Women and Girls, Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer Folks, and Youth (MMIWG2ST). The history of this day is rooted in awareness and in mourning of Hanna Harris' birthday, a 21-year-old Northern Cheyenne woman who went missing and was murdered in 2013. Her community has been leading a grassroots organization for multiple years in which her legacy is honored through the Hanna's Acts which authorizes the Department of Justice to assist local law enforcement in missing person cases. We acknowledge the impacts of colonialism and systemic racism and how this has affected Indigenous women since contact and are the main contributing factors to the ongoing violence against Indigenous folks and communities. We also are considerate of how these issues are ongoing and the work that has occurred has been led by Indigenous Matriarchs in the community.

Facts

Genocide and assimilation through colonialism has been and continues to negatively impact and disproportionately harm Indigenous People(s), Territories, and communities in so-called canada. This intersects with capitalism, white supremacy, and systemic racism. According to the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), there are four pathways that maintain colonial violence: historical, multigenerational, and intergenerational trauma; social and economic marginalization; maintaining the status quo and institutional lack of will; and ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people (111-118). With this said, our systems in place make it so that Indigenous folks and communities

go unheard and disproportionately affected and it should be in all of our duties to dismantle these systems and make space for Indigenous liberation and justice. Furthermore, Women and Indigqueer folks are highly honored and respected in Indigenous communities as they are the First Teachers (149), hold leadership positions (152), are Healers (154), Providers (157), and Protectors (160); We are here to acknowledge the joys of Indigenous women and Indigqueer folks and their central impacts within their communities and within society. In this way, we amplify the hardship of these women and Indigqueer folk being affected and call for justice located [here](#). Some of which are but not limited to: Self-Determined and Indigenous-Led Solutions and Services (171), Cultural Safety (173), Trauma-Informed Approach (173), and others.

Additionally, we care to shed light on the ways MMIWG2S are affected;

- Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to go missing or murdered than any other woman in Canada
- There are over 5700 reported cases of MMIWG2S in the United States. However, this number is closer to 15000+ cases due to unreported/unfiled cases. This also has been ongoing since contact. Additionally, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notes in a 2014 report that there have been more than 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women between 1980 and 2012. However, Indigenous women's groups, however, document the number of missing and murdered to be over 4,000.
- 4 in 5 native women are affected by violence.
- Indigenous women are 3.5 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be victims of violence in North America
- U.S. Department of justice found Native women face murder rated 10 times higher than the national average
- Out of 5712 MMIWG2S (reported) cases UIHI found, only 116 of those were officially listed in the US Department of justices' official missing persons list.

Action

The Simon Fraser Student Society commits to always amplifying the voices of Indigenous People(s), respecting Indigenous Governance and their Sovereignty, implement clear policy changes that — not only aims to reduce the disproportionate impacts policy historically has had on Indigenous Peoples — but to use it as a tool to dismantle and disrupt colonial structures, and working to establish strong services and supports for Indigenous communities within the community.

We must also protect and uplift the labor, presence, and resilience of Indigenous Women, Trans Women and Girls, Two-Spirit, Indigqueer Folks, and Youth. We must listen and respect their needs and their Ways of Knowing. Indigenous People(s) must be invited to spaces, have space for agency and governance, and should be properly consulted in decision-making spaces. In order to do this, we support the First Nation Student Association's [call to action](#) and the [#LetUsSpeak campaign](#) that pushes SFU to center Indigenous voices in decision-making and other spaces in order to raise these issues and to also be supported alongside allies. We must work to ensure that Indigenous folks' Traditional Ceremonies, Songs, Dances, and Prayers are uplifted in our spaces. Additionally, we must hold perpetrators of violence accountable; White supremacists,



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misogynists, racists, RCMP and Police, The Canadian government, settler colonialism, and other systems and people who undermine, minimize, gaslight, and harm Indigenous People(s). Within this institution and other spaces we occupy, we dedicate ourselves to undoing the ways misogynistic and white supremacy systems have implemented racist, colonial and genocidal doctrines into the normalization of society within our spaces that directly disproportionately harm Indigenous People(s).

Resources

For those in our community impacted by MMIW here are some resources to access additional support:

[Indigenous Student Centre](#)

- There are listed resources for currently enrolled Indigenous students, as well to access counseling services through ISC please refer to contact information on this page.

[First Nation Health Authority](#)

- There is mental wellness support that is provided through the First Nations Health Authority specifically for survivors, and families who have been directly impacted by MMIW. If you self-identify as Indigenous please reach out and request additional support, this is what it is intended for.

[Aboriginal Mothers Centre](#)

- Indigenous mothers can access this resource and receive all provided supports through their programming.

[Lu'ma Medical Centre](#)

- For self-identified Indigenous folks, you can request to receive wellness support from Lu'ma Native Housing society from their medical center.

[Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre](#)

- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society has community and cultural support.

Other resources;

[Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)

[SFSS Issues Policies Including Policy Regarding Indigenous Inclusion and Reconciliation](#)