Red Dress Day – Resources and Ideas

Understanding Red Dress Day- taken from First United Church, Waterloo:

Purpose:
Red Dress Day, observed annually on May 5th, honors the memories of MMIWG2S and aims to raise awareness about the ongoing crisis of violence against Indigenous women and girls.
Origin:
The red dress movement began as an art installation by Métis artist Jaime Black, who hung red dresses in public spaces to symbolize the missing and murdered. Here is an interview with Jaime Black about the REDress project.
https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/about_the_redress_project/
Significance:
The red color represents the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors, and the empty dresses serve as a powerful reminder of the missing and murdered.

Resources from a variety of denominations

- **Mennonite:**https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/27780
- **Lutheran: https://easternsynod.org/reddress/**
- **Christian Reformed Church: https://network.crcna.org/sites/default/files/Month%20of%20Prayer%20-%202018%20update.pdf**

To Acknowledge the Day

- Consider hanging a red dress on your property (in a tree, in a window, on your porch)
- Place red hearts or red feathers in your window
- Print a feather image on a red card and write a prayer for those MMWIG2S+
- engage in congregational/community prayer by writing the names of those murdered or missing on a red card, on May 5th (Day of Awareness of MMIWG2S+). Hang the cards on the wall of the sanctuary or in a public gathering place.
- Attend a local vigil.
- Read, study, learn, listen and pray.

Additional Resources

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Two Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+) National Inquiry Final Report
- MMIWG2S+ Final Report - Calls for Justice
- Database for MMIWG (**not an exhaustive database. Some estimate the number of MMIWG2S+ individuals to number as many as 4000).
- MMIWG2S+2021 National Action Plan
- Ally Toolkit
- Being a Genuine Ally
- Beyond Red Dress Day: Seven Calls to Action for Indigenous Allies
- Safe Passage
- Native Women's Association of Canada
- Little Red Dress Project

Books

- Missing Nimama, Melanie Florence (Cree); illustrated by François Thisdale (2015) – ***for children***
- If I Go Missing, Brianna Jonnie (Ojibway), Nahannii Shingoose (Ojibway / Saaulteaux) (2021) – ***graphic novel for teens***
- Will I See?, David Alexander Robinson (Cree), Iskwé (Cree / Métis), Leslie Erin; illustrated by, GMB Chomichuk & Erin Leslies (2016) – ***graphic novel for teens***
- Surviving the City, Vol. 1, Tasha Summer-Spillett (Cree); illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Métis) (2019) – ***graphic novel for teens***
- Keetsahnak: Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters, Kim Anderson (Cree / Métis), Christii Belcourt (Métis), Maria Campbell (Métis) (2018)
- Highway of Tears, Jessica McDiarmid (2019)
- Forever Loved: Exposing the Hidden Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada, Jennifer Brant (Kanien'kehc:Ka) and Dawn Memee Lavell-Harvard (Anishinabe) (2016)
- Stolen Sisters, Emmanuelle Walter (2015)
- Seven Fallen Feathers, Tanya Talaga (Anishinaabe) (2017)
- Five Little Indians, Michelle Good (Cree) (2020)

To Donate

- Little Red Dress Project
- Native Women Association of Canada

To Advocate

Consider writing to your local, provincial or the following federal government officials to raise concerns, advocate for more funding and prevention and the rights of MMIWG2S+ and their families.

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada (mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)
- The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. (gary.anandasangaree@parl.gc.ca)

Recent Report of human remains found at landfill site in Manitoba

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/marcedes-myran-remains-found-1.7485825