

# Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Crisis

According to the National Institute of Justice, four out of every five Native American women have experienced violence—more than half within the last year. As a senior member and former Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Jon has taken a three-pronged approach to addressing the MMIW crisis focused on **1)** raising awareness, **2)** empowering tribes, and **3)** finding solutions.

## RAISING AWARENESS

On some reservations, Indigenous women face murder rates up to 10 times the national average. But most Americans are completely unaware of the daily risks that women in Indian Country face. That's why Jon is fighting to raise awareness about this crisis by:

- Demanding the Senate Indian Affairs Committee **hold a Congressional hearing on the MMIW crisis.** The hearing, which took place on December 12, 2018, brought together local activists and federal law enforcement officials to identify the underlying causes of this crisis and find solutions.
- **Inviting MMIW activist Briana Lamb (of Missoula) to be his guest at the State of the Union address.** Her presence in the House Chamber during the President's speech brought national attention to the crisis.
- Introducing resolutions in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 designating May 5 as the **"National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls."**

## EMPOWERING TRIBES

For too long, tribes have lacked the resources and authority to properly address the MMIW crisis. That's why Jon is fighting to empower tribes so they can support survivors and bring assailants to justice by:

- Reintroducing the **Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment (SURVIVE) Act**, to create a 5 percent set-aside in the Crime Victims Fund specifically for Indian Country to assist survivors, increase crime fighting efforts, and prosecute criminals.
- **Securing a historic \$133 million** to help Native American communities assist survivors of violent crime through the Crime Victims Fund last year.
- Securing language in the **2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act** that finally allows tribes to prosecute non-native offenders. As a result, 18 tribes have used their new-found authority to arrest 143 offenders since 2013.

## FINDING SOLUTIONS

One of the biggest obstacles to solving the MMIW crisis is a lack of communication between federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies. That's why Jon has fought to open these lines of communication by:

- Reintroducing **Savanna's Act** to improve information sharing between tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, standardize response protocols, and better track crimes against Native Americans.
- Introducing the **Studying the Missing and Murdered Indian Crisis Act**, which directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a full review of how federal agencies respond to missing persons cases in Indian Country and recommend solutions based on their findings.
- Introducing the **Not Invisible Act**, to create an advisory committee on violent crimes against Native people composed of multiple federal agencies, Tribal leaders, survivors, service providers, and state, local and tribal law enforcement. It would also designate an official within the BIA to coordinate prevention efforts across federal agencies.