

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-64

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

WHEREAS, Indigenous women face a staggering and tragically high rate of violence and assault, due to historically unjust marginalization throughout the United States of America, which has resulted in an ongoing national humanitarian crisis;

WHEREAS, May 5th has been designated by the United States Senate, the legislative bodies of various states and tribes, and numerous community organizations as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;

WHEREAS, in April of 2021, United States Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced the formation of a new Missing and Murdered Unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services to provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, seeking to put the full weight of the federal government into investigating these cases and to marshal law enforcement resources across federal agencies throughout Indian Country;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana is committed to partnering with federal, state, interstate, and intertribal efforts to address the injustice and violence done to indigenous women residing within our nation and our State; and

WHEREAS, by engaging a wide and diverse group of stakeholders, and through collaboration with state administration and law enforcement, Louisiana can and will reduce the violence and harm threatening the lives and safety of women in our State's Indigenous communities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: The Governor's Council on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (hereafter the "Council") is hereby established within the executive branch, Office of the Governor- Office of Indian Affairs.

Section 2: The duties of the Council shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. To make recommendations to address rates of homicide, human trafficking, and sexual violence being perpetrated upon American Indian/Indigenous women and children in the State of Louisiana, categorized as Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIWG).
- B. To promote greater public awareness of the ongoing crisis of violence against Indigenous women.
- C. To make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the formulation of solution-based policies and their implementation regarding the following:
 1. Reviewing the responsibilities of federal, state, tribal, and local parish and city law enforcement agencies when responding to cases of murdered and missing Indigenous people;
 2. Establishment of methods to increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, Tribal, and local Parish and City law enforcement agencies;
 3. Establish standard law enforcement protocols to respond to the unique challenges and circumstances surrounding the crisis of murdered and missing indigenous women and children, with prioritization for response criteria to a missing person report;
 4. Ensure that all non-resident workers who have been previously convicted of sex crimes in any jurisdiction register as sex offenders with the requisite authority in the State of Louisiana;
 5. Review of current cultural competency practices employed by industrial operators in the State of Louisiana, including but not limited to human trafficking awareness training with a specific focus on murdered and missing indigenous women;
 6. Establishment of guidelines specifically for reviewing possible MMIW "cold cases" and improving "cold case" investigative methodology, including analysis of the serial nature of MMIW crimes in reservation and urban environments; and
 7. Increasing access to culturally appropriate victim services for both victims and their families.

Section 3: The Council shall meet at least quarterly and shall submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature, until December 31, 2028, regarding its findings and recommendations.

- A. The Office of Indian Affairs within the office of the governor shall provide to the council such clerical, administrative, and technical

assistance and support as may be necessary to enable the Council to accomplish its goals.

- B. The Council may establish subcommittees or working groups within the Council and appoint members to those subcommittees, including persons outside of the council membership, as it deems necessary and appropriate to accomplish its goals.
- C. The chair of the Council shall be designated by a two-third vote of the membership of the Council. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by and from the membership of the Council.
- D. All meetings of the Council shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law as contained in R.S. 42:11, et seq. A majority of the serving members of the Council shall constitute a quorum. The Council shall act by a majority vote of its serving members.
- E. Council members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from the Office of the Governor for serving on the Council.
- F. Council members who are employees of or an elected public official of the state of Louisiana or a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana may seek reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from their employing and/or elected department, agency and/or office.

Section 4: The Council shall be composed of a maximum of twenty-five (25) voting members who, unless otherwise specified, shall serve at the pleasure of the governor:

- 1. One representative from each of the federally recognized and state-recognized tribal nations located within Louisiana, chosen by each tribe's respective tribal council;
- 2. One victims' advocate with experience of working in the field of sexual trauma and victim recovery, appointed by the Governor;
- 3. One representative of a Children's Advocacy Center, designated by the Executive Director of Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Center (LACAC);
- 4. The Director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs;
- 5. The Director of the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention;
- 6. One expert in Human Trafficking Prevention, appointed by the Governor;
- 7. One representative of the Louisiana Department of Justice, designated by the Attorney General;
- 8. One behavioral health professional, designated by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health;
- 9. One Information Technology expert, designated by the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police;
- 10. One representative of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, designated by the Secretary;
- 11. One representative of the Office of Juvenile Justice, designated by the Deputy Secretary; and

12. One representative of the Board of Regents, designated by the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Section 5: The Council may collaborate with or seek input from additional local, state, and federal agencies or other stakeholders, including university or not-for-profit research institutions, to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components or actions of the Council.

Section 6: All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Council in implementing the provisions of this Order.

Section 7: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this day 3rd of May 2024.


GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE


SECRETARY OF STATE