



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is home to a population of more than 130,000 American Indians, the largest east of the Mississippi, and eight historic tribes: the Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of Saponi, Sappony, and Waccamaw-Siouan, in accordance with Chapter 71A-3 of North Carolina's General Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Justice, American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average; this day brings awareness to the many American Indian women who go missing or are murdered each year across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 60 years, North Carolina has had approximately 106 cases involving missing and murdered American Indians with 57 percent of those being women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has four urban Indian organizations including the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, Guilford Native American Association, Metrolina Native American Association, and the Triangle Native American Society; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was created in 1971 by the North Carolina General Assembly to advocate for local, regional, and national American Indian concerns; the Commission has taken steps to address the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women through partnerships with Indian tribes and urban Indian associations; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina affirms the inherent rights of American Indians and understands that addressing the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women is critical to upholding their human rights and ensuring justice for victims and their families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2023, as a "**DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this second day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.