The REDress Project

The REDress Project is a public installation dedicated to the remembrance of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG). It consists of red dresses, hanging in public spaces, with each empty dress symbolizing one of the missing and murdered. Canadian Jaime Black (Métis) began the project in 2000. She told CTV News that “a friend of [hers], who is also an aboriginal, explained that red was the only colour spirits could see.”

• The Urban Indian Health Institute reports that Indigenous women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.

• In the United States today, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women are nearly 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women in the general population.

• Homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native girls and women aged 10 to 24, and the fifth leading cause of death for Native women aged 25 to 34.

• Eighty-four percent of Native American women experience violence in their lifetime, according to the National Institute of Justice.

• According to the National Institute of Justice, 97 percent of Native American women who have experienced violence were victimized by non-Native American perpetrators, many of whom are never identified or brought to justice.

• Over 5,700 American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls were reported missing as of 2016, according to the National Crime Information Center, but only 116 of those cases were logged with the Department of Justice. Because of limited statistical data and racial misclassification, this number is likely much higher.

• More than 95% of MMIWG cases are not covered in the national media. Cases have been allowed to quickly go "cold", and crucial evidence has been "lost", or never forwarded on from local law enforcement to the appropriate agencies.

The Saginaw Chippewa MMIWG Community Planning Committee is grateful to Dr. Suzanne Cross, Saginaw Chippewa Behavioral Health Programs, Redrum Motorcycle Club, and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women for their support of this installation.