

Hello, my name is Cheryl Horn, Nahzi Magazu (Standing in the Rain) and I am here today to bring information to you regarding the crisis we call MMIW/MMIP. I am a grassroots advocate who came to MMIP as a family of 2 missing girls. Tristen Gray and Selena Not Afraid, my nieces. Both were found deceased so I choose to speak up at any table I can. To get a better understanding, Indigenous people, particularly women, girls, and 2 spirit individuals face disproportionately high rates of violence, disappearances, and homicides in the United States. The crisis reflects centuries of systemic inequality, neglect, and lack of appropriate law enforcement response.

As a family and advocate, I believe our biggest barrier is the lack of proper investigation and prosecution. Families have been investigators and reporters when the authorities have not. Operation Lady Justice worked for my niece Selena. Now we have the Not Invisible Act. In reality, they are merely a dream team that does not exist. The resources do not trickle down to more police, investigators, or even advocates. My MMIP program runs on a \$0 budget, yet I help people all over the United States. I do this with the help of the community. Very seldom does a tribal program allow to bring victims home or to travel and search for a loved one. Fortunately, Fort Belknap is very supportive of the MMIP efforts I put forth. We are building non-profits and healing programs by collaborating and sharing knowledge. We are working towards healing and moving forward for our families. Support and mental health are 2 areas I advocate and train to help others with.

We need more support for the Not Invisible to Act and Savannah's Act, both work to provide more resources for Indigenous communities. We also need to work on our Amber Alerts so ALL missing are included in the alert. Victim services are slowly growing. Unfortunately, most federal programs are limited as data collectors and not actual resources for the missing, murdered, and domestic violence victims. I advocate for a few families that live outside of Montana and are non-natives. This was a promise I made when my niece was returned to us: When we get Selena back, I will continue to help ALL families.

I would love to see the resources and funding reach the community level and not just provide jobs for data collecting. In closing, thank you all for allowing me to share this space with you. I hope we can all work together towards justice and healing for families.