



Red Dress Day and NWAC's **FACELESS DOLLS PROJECT**

Red Dress Day

The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples is also known as Red Dress Day.

This name comes from a powerful art project that raises awareness about the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples that represents an epidemic of gender-based violence in Canada.

In 2010, Métis artist Jamie Black began The REDress Project. It began as an art installation that hung hundreds of empty red dresses in public spaces to remind people of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and girls lost because of gender-based violence. Jamie Black's project gained national and international attention and inspired a movement for change.

The word "**redress**" means to remedy or set right.
The **REDress project** is a call to action.

This call to action and the epidemic of gender-based violence targeted at Indigenous women, girls, and 2LGBTQQIA+ peoples that inspired the REDress project is at the heart of the work the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has done since 1974. This is why NWAC is a vocal supporter of the REDress Project and has also worked tirelessly to advocate for days of commemoration like Red Dress Day.

We cannot forget our lost grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunties, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ members of our communities. We must work together to redress this violence.

MAY 5, 2023





Red Dress Day and NWAC's **FACELESS DOLLS PROJECT (CONT.)**

NWAC advocates for the well-being of Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ people in their respective communities and Canadian society. Through its own projects like Safe Passage and its national action plan *Our Calls, Our Actions*, NWAC works like the REDress Project to honour those we've lost and to create a safer society for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.

NWAC's Faceless Doll Project

Inspired by the advocacy work of the REDress Project and Gloria Larocque's *Aboriginal Angel Doll Project*, in 2012, NWAC collaborated with Larocque to launch its own art for change initiative to commemorate MMIWG2S+ peoples. NWAC's *Faceless Doll Project* creates a visual representation of strong and beautiful Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples who have become "faceless" victims of violence.

At engagement workshops held across Canada, community members were invited to come and hear the Faceless Doll story and create their very own doll for inclusion in this commemorative art project. The dolls created in 2012 became part of a traveling art exhibit in memory of MMIWG2S+ peoples in Canada.

As word of the NWAC *Faceless Doll Project* spread, NWAC received requests from families, community members, teachers, and allies to continue making Faceless Dolls. People and organizations continue to create these dolls in tribute and solidarity. The movement has even spread outside of North America and people are now participating throughout the world!

Join us in commemorating those we've lost and advocating for change by making a Faceless Doll today.

