

Toolkit Items for Red Dress Day 2023 FACELESS DOLLS EDITION

Introduction to MMIWG2S+

Definition for MMIWG2S+ acronym: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ Peoples.

MMIWG2S+ is a national crisis that impacts the lives of innumerable Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. As a Canadian youth, you can become an advocate for change and take action to eradicate this humanitarian crisis.

First and foremost, it's critical to acknowledge that the MMIWG2S+ crisis is a human rights problem requiring an immediate response. As a young person who cares about justice and equality, you have a role in increasing awareness of the problem, pushing for legislative reforms, and supporting Indigenous-led projects that address the ongoing crisis. By amplifying the voices of those individuals affected the most, you can help draw more attention and action to this urgent issue.

Furthermore, the MMIWG2S+ crisis connects with other social justice concerns such as racism, poverty, and environmental destruction. As a young person concerned about the future of our planet and the well-being of all people, you understand the significance of solving this problem as part of a larger movement for change. Stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and take reconciliation measures to create a fairer, more equitable society for everyone.





Dear Teachers:

To participate in Red Dress Day, we encourage you to read "**If I Go Missing",** by Brianna Jonnie along with your students. This graphic novel skillfully combines elements of graphic fiction and nonfiction to provide insight into the unique dangers faced by Indigenous teenagers in Canada today.

The book's text is adapted from a letter written by 14-year-old Brianna Jonnie to the Winnipeg Chief of Police. The letter went viral and was the inspiration for a documentary film. In her letter, Jonnie criticizes the authorities for failing to promptly investigate cases of missing Indigenous People. She implores them to treat her as an individual, rather than simply as an Indigenous person if she were to go missing.

The book features artwork by Indigenous artist Neal Shannacappo, who vividly depicts a scenario in which a young Indigenous woman goes missing and portrays the reaction from her community, friends, the police, and the media.

The book also includes an author's note for young readers about the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples crisis in Canada.

CBC article: https://www.cbc.ca/books/if-i-go-missing-1.5392096

CBC documentary: https://youtu.be/R13ojSThGQQ

We also invite you and your class to turn to the section on "How to create Faceless Dolls" during your lesson. Our goal is to bring awareness to the more than 4,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples in Canada. We urge you to join our advocacy by creating as many faceless dolls wearing red dresses as possible! Each faceless doll symbolizes a missing or murdered Indigenous woman, girl, two-spirit, transgender, or gender-diverse+. And each is a way of honouring and commemorating their lives.

Imagine the impact of making 4,000 faceless dolls (or more!) right across this country.

We can't wait to see how you have displayed your Faceless Dolls. You can tag us on social media:



O@nwac_canada on Instagram and Canativewomensassociationofcanada on Facebook.



Statistics for MMIWG2S+

Indigenous girls make up 7% of the total population of girls in Canada, yet they represented 50% of all female homicide victims in Canada between 2001 and 2017. Indigenous girls under 18 are more likely to be reported missing than non-Indigenous girls of the same age.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples found that Indigenous girls are often targets of sexual exploitation and trafficking, with many being lured away from their homes and communities and forced into exploitative situations.

The over-representation of Indigenous girls in the child welfare system is also a significant factor in why they are vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Indigenous girls make up 53% of all children in foster care in Canada, despite representing only 7% of the total population of children.

Indigenous women are sexually assaulted three times more often than non-Indigenous women, and most of the women and children trafficked in Canada are Indigenous. As well, 47% of Indigenous women or girls aged 15 and older who were murdered between 2015 and 2020 were killed by an intimate partner.







10 open-ended questions for a teacher to use around the MMIWG2S+ crisis for students aged 12-18

- 1. What do you know about the MMIWG2S+ crisis? How has it changed the way you think about Canada's past and present?
- **2.** Why do you think violence and disappearances happen more often to Indigenous women and girls in Canada?
- **3.** How might the MMIWG2S+ problem be affected by colonialism and systemic racism?
- **4.** What do you think non-Indigenous Canadians should do to help Indigenous women and girls who have experienced violence or have gone missing?
- **5.** How can we stop the violence against Indigenous women and girls that's caused by damaging beliefs and attitudes?
- 6. What can be done about the fact that Indigenous opinions and points of view aren't heard enough in the media and schools?
- **7.** What can we learn from the Indigenous women and girls who are leading the effort to end the MMIWG2S+ crisis?
- **8.** How can allies (friends) help the MMIWG2S+ cause, and what challenges might they face?
- **9.** How can we help Indigenous-led projects and groups that are working to solve the MMIWG2S+ problem in our communities?
- **10.** How can we work toward healing and peace considering the on-going MMIWG2S+crisis?





Answer Key/Talking Points

Question 1:

This is an icebreaker question and is meant to start a discussion.



Question 2:

- Historical trauma: Indigenous Peoples in Canada have experienced centuries of colonization, including the forced removal of children from their families and communities to attend residential schools. This resulted in the loss of language, culture, traditional knowledge, and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. The intergenerational trauma resulting from these experiences may contribute to the vulnerability of Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples to violence.
- **Systemic discrimination:** Indigenous Peoples in Canada continue to face systemic discrimination in many areas of life, including in the criminal justice system, which may contribute to a lack of protection and accountability for violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples.
- **Stereotypes and biases:** Stereotypes and biases about Indigenous Peoples may contribute to a lack of empathy and action to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples.
- **Economic marginalization:** Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples are more likely to experience poverty and economic marginalization, which may increase their vulnerability to violence.
- Lack of access to services: Indigenous communities may face barriers in accessing health care, education, and other essential services, which may increase the risk of violence.
- Lack of data and attention: Until recently, there has been little attention and data on the issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples, which may have contributed to a lack of action to address it.







Question 3:

- **The Missing and Murdered** Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S+) crisis is a deeply rooted issue that affects Indigenous communities on Turtle Island (North and South America). Colonialism and systemic racism have significantly perpetuated and exacerbated this crisis.
- **Colonialism disrupted traditional Indigenous societies** and created conditions that have contributed to violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. It brought about the imposition of patriarchal systems and ideologies, which continue to contribute to the marginalization and dehumanization of Indigenous women and their communities.
- Systemic racism in the form of discrimination, prejudice, and biases has further compounded the problem by creating barriers to justice and protection for Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. This includes the systemic failure of law enforcement and justice systems to adequately respond to cases of violence and murder against Indigenous women and girls, leading to a lack of accountability for perpetrators.
- The legacy of residential schools and other assimilation policies has led to the intergenerational trauma that impacts Indigenous communities to this day. The effects of these policies, including the destruction of language, culture, and community, have made Indigenous women and girls more vulnerable to violence and exploitation.
- **Colonialism and systemic racism** have created a social, political, and economic environment perpetuating the MMIWG2S+ crisis. Addressing this crisis requires acknowledging and dismantling the structures and systems that have contributed to it, including the ongoing legacy of colonization and systemic racism. It also requires centering the experiences and perspectives of women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples and respecting their sovereignty and self-determination.







Question 4:

- Listen to and amplify Indigenous voices: It is essential to listen to and learn from Indigenous voices, particularly those of Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples, who are most impacted by the issue. Amplify their voices and support their efforts to bring attention to the issue.
- Educate yourself: Educate yourself on the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the ongoing impacts of colonization and systemic racism. Learn about the issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples, and the root causes.
- **Take action:** Take concrete actions to support Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples who have experienced violence or gone missing. This could include supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, advocating for systemic change, and donating to organizations that support Indigenous communities.
- Advocate for change: Use your privilege and voice to advocate for systemic change that addresses the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. This could include advocating for policy changes, supporting calls to action from Indigenous-led initiatives, and holding elected officials accountable.
- Support Indigenous-led initiatives: Support Indigenous-led initiatives that aim to address the issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. This could include volunteering or donating to Indigenous-led organizations and initiatives, attending events, and participating in cultural activities.





D Question 5:

Stopping violence against Indigenous women and girls caused by damaging beliefs and attitudes requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of the problem. Here are some steps that can be taken:

- Education and awareness: Addressing damaging beliefs and attitudes requires education and awareness-raising initiatives that challenge harmful stereotypes and promote positive representations of Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. Education should be targeted towards non-Indigenous communities, including law enforcement, justice systems, health care providers, and the public.
- **Community engagement:** Engaging Indigenous communities in developing and implementing initiatives to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples is crucial. Community-led approaches that prioritize Indigenous knowledge, culture, and traditions can effectively address the root causes of violence and promote healing and wellness.
- Holding perpetrators accountable: Ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions is necessary to prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples. This requires reforming justice systems to ensure that they are culturally appropriate and responsive to the unique experiences of Indigenous women.
- **Building supportive networks:** Building supportive networks for Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples is essential to prevent violence and provide healing and support for those who have experienced violence. This includes creating safe spaces, providing access to mental health services, and developing culturally appropriate resources and supports.
- Addressing systemic issues: Addressing the systemic issues that contribute to violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and genderdiverse+ peoples, including poverty, discrimination, and racism, is necessary to create sustainable change. This requires a commitment to decolonization, reconciliation, and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.







Question 6:

- Increase Indigenous representation in the media: There is a need for more Indigenous representation in the media, including Indigenous journalists, writers, producers, and media owners. This would ensure that Indigenous perspectives are included in news reporting and cultural representation.
- Incorporate Indigenous content in school curricula: It is crucial to incorporate Indigenous content, history, and perspectives in school curricula to provide a more accurate and complete understanding of Canadian history and Indigenous cultures.
- **Ensure access to Indigenous media:** Access to Indigenous media is essential for Indigenous peoples to share their stories and perspectives. Support Indigenous media outlets and initiatives to increase access and representation.
- **Provide funding for Indigenous-led initiatives:** Providing funding for Indigenous-led initiatives in media and education can support the development of Indigenous content and perspectives and create more opportunities for Indigenous People to share their stories and viewpoints.
- **Support reconciliation efforts:** Supporting reconciliation efforts, such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the 231 Calls for Justice from the MMIWG2S+ National Inquiry can help create a more inclusive and respectful society that values Indigenous perspectives and cultures.
- Engage with Indigenous communities: Engage with Indigenous communities and leaders to learn about their perspectives and experiences. This can help create more understanding and support for Indigenous issues and initiatives.







Indigenous women and girls are at the forefront of the efforts to solve the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples crisis. Their leadership and advocacy offer valuable lessons and insights for addressing the crisis. Here are some of the lessons we can learn from them:

- Centering Indigenous knowledge and perspectives: Indigenous women and girls have been leading efforts to address the MMIWG2S+ crisis by centering Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and traditions. This means valuing and respecting Indigenous ways of knowing and approaching issues, rather than imposing non-Indigenous solutions.
- **Empowering survivors:** Indigenous women and girls empower survivors of violence and support them in their healing journeys. They are creating spaces for survivors to share their stories, seek support, and connect with other survivors. This allows survivors to reclaim their power and voice and take control of their healing journey.
- **Community-led approaches:** Indigenous women and girls advocate for community-led approaches to addressing the MMIWG2S+ crisis. This means empowering Indigenous communities to develop solutions that are tailored to their unique needs and contexts.
- Advocacy and policy change: Indigenous women and girls are using their voices to advocate for policy changes that address the root causes of the MMIWG2S+ crisis. They are calling for systemic changes that address issues such as poverty, racism, and colonization.
- Intersectionality: Indigenous women and girls are advocating for an intersectional approach to addressing the MMIWG2S+ crisis. They recognize that Indigenous women and girls experience violence differently based on factors such as age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status. Therefore, they are advocating for solutions that recognize and address these differences.







Ways that Canadians can help:

- Amplify Indigenous voices and perspectives.
- Educate themselves on the issue and the root causes.
- Donate to Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations.
- Attend events and participate in cultural activities.
- Advocate for systemic change.
- Support reconciliation efforts.

Challenges that allies might face:

- Lack of knowledge and understanding of the issue and its root causes.
- Lack of access to Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations.
- Fear of saying or doing the wrong thing.
- Lack of awareness of the history of colonization and its ongoing impacts.
- Difficulties in finding ways to support the cause that are respectful and appropriate.







Supporting Indigenous-led projects and groups that are working to solve the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples+ crisis in our communities is crucial in creating positive change. Here are some ways that you can help:

- Educate yourself! Take the time to learn about the MMIWG2S+ crisis and its impacts on Indigenous communities. Read books, articles, and reports from Indigenous authors and organizations to gain a better understanding of the issue.
- Listen to Indigenous voices: Listen to Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit People who are leading efforts to solve the MMIWG2S+ crisis. Attend community events, forums, and meetings to hear their perspectives and experiences.
- **Support Indigenous-led initiatives:** Support Indigenous-led initiatives and projects that are working to address the MMIWG2S+ crisis in your community. This can include donating to organizations, volunteering your time and skills, or participating in community-led initiatives.
- Advocate for policy change: Advocate for policy changes that address the root causes of the MMIWG2S+ crisis. This can include contacting your elected officials, participating in rallies and protests, and raising awareness in your community.
- **Decolonize your actions:** Decolonize your actions and recognize the ways in which colonization and systemic racism have contributed to the MMIWG2S+ crisis. This means challenging your own biases and assumptions, and actively working towards a more just and equitable society.







Working towards healing and peace is a complex and on-going process that requires addressing the root causes of the issue and implementing long-term solutions. Here are some ways we can work towards healing and peace:

- Acknowledge and address the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization and systemic racism: This requires recognizing the harm that has been caused to Indigenous Peoples and working towards reconciliation and decolonization.
- Listen to and support Indigenous voices and leadership: It is important to prioritize the voices and leadership of Indigenous Peoples in addressing the MMIWG2S+ issue and in the healing process.
- Address the root causes of the issue: This includes addressing the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples, such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to resources and support.
- **Provide support for victims and their families:** This includes providing access to culturally appropriate support and resources for victims and their families, such as counseling, health care, and legal support.
- Implement systemic change: This includes changes to laws, policies, and systems that perpetuate violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples, such as improving the justice system response, addressing the over-representation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system, and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- **Promote cultural safety and awareness:** This includes promoting cultural safety and awareness among the public to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' cultures, traditions, and perspectives are respected and valued.
- Foster relationships based on mutual respect and understanding: This includes fostering positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people based on mutual respect, understanding, and support.





Minister Template

Link to contact information for Marc Miller:

 Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations: <u>https://www.ourcommons.ca/</u> members/en/marc-miller(88660)#contact

Dear [Minister's Name],

I am writing to you as a young person who cares deeply about the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples in Canada. The crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples is a matter of urgent concern, and I am asking you to take swift action to address it.

One step that I believe can make a real difference is the implementation of the Red Dress Alert system, which was promised in this year's budget. We need to act now, so this crisis stops.

As a young person, I want to live in a world where Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples are not at risk of violence, exploitation, or disappearance. It's unacceptable that so many cases of MMIWG2S+ involve girls under the age of 18, and I believe that we can - and must - do better.

I urge you to prioritize the implementation of the Red Dress Alert system and to act on and implement all of the 231 Calls for Justice to address the MMIWG2S+ crisis in Canada. We need to work together to create a safer and more just society for everyone, and I believe that this is an issue that demands urgent attention.

Thank you for your consideration,

[Your Name]





THE FACELESS DOLLS PROJECT

was initiated by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) in the spring of 2012 and builds upon Gloria Laroque's Angel Doll project. The purpose of this project is to generate greater recognition of the pervasive issue of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ (WG2STGD+) People within Canada through art.

MATERIALS + TEMPLATES

DOLLS AND ACCESSORIES TEMPLATE

BEADS

YARN

GLUE

FELT

SCISSORS

INSTRUCTIONS

CUT OUT each of the dolls and accessories template.

030

- 2. TRACE the body onto the brown felt and cut it out.
- 3. TRACE the remainder of the doll accessories onto the remainder of the felt and other materials supplied in your kit.
- USE YARN or felt for her hair.
- 5. ADORN and personalize your faceless doll with the provided supplies. Each one is decorated in a very different way and that's okay.



FEATHERS



FACELESS DOLL TEMPLATE

Use this template to create your own faceless doll. **Simply cut out the shapes and trace onto your material.** If you are tracing onto felt, use a thin marker and make sure you have sharp scissors for the hair pieces.







Further Reading

- Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story: <u>https://www.portageandmainpress.</u> com/Books/B/Betty_
- Red River Girl: <u>https://www.amazon.ca/Red-River-Girl-Death-Fontaine/</u> <u>dp/0735233934</u>
- Invisible Victims: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: https://www.amazon.ca/Invisible-Victims-Missing-Murdered-Indigenous/dp/1534754601
- Highway of Tears: https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/548115/ highway-of-tears-by-jessica-mcdiarmid/9780385687591
- Stolen Sisters: The Story of Two Missing Girls, Their Families, and How Canada Has Failed Indigenous Women: <u>https://www.amazon.ca/Stolen-Sisters-Missing-</u> <u>Families-Indigenous/dp/1443445169</u>
- That Lonely Section of Hell: https://www.amazon.ca/ That-Lonely-Section-Hell-investigation/dp/1771642572/
 O&s=books&sprefix=that+lonely+section+of+hell%2Cstripbooks%2C84&sr=1-1





NWAC Resources

- 1. MMIWG Action Plan: Our Calls, Our Actions: <u>https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/NWAC-action-plan-English.pdf</u>
- 2. Human Trafficking and MMIWG2S+: https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/lssues_in_Human_trafficking_and_MMIWG2S-1.pdf
- 3. Intergenerational Effects of Incarceration and MMIWG2S+: https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/Intergenerational-Effects-of-Incarceration-and-MMIWG2S.pdf
- 4. Intergenerational Effects of Incarceration and MMIWG2S+ Toolkit: https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/Incarceration-and-Intergenerational-Effects-ENG.pdf
- 5. Fact Sheet: Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women and Girls: <u>https://nwac.</u> <u>ca/assets-knowledge-centre/Fact_Sheet_Missing_and_Murdered_Aboriginal_</u> Women_and_Girls.pdf
- 6. Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking: https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/ FS-NWAC-Human-Trafficking-2018-JB-Final.pdf
- 7. MMIWG: Calls for Justice: https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/Web-MMIWG-calls-to-justice..new.pdf
- 8. Fact Sheet: MMIWG: <u>https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/Fact-Sheet-MMIWG-1.pdf</u>
- 9. Safe Passage Website: https://safe-passage.ca/
- 10. Kci-Niwesq Issue: https://issuu.com/kci-niwesq/docs/kci-niwesq_-_ issue_3-_rbg





Youth and Indigenous Organizations Across Canada

- Native Women's Association of Canada
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
- Métis National Council
- Indigenous Services Canada
- National Association of Native Friendship Centées
- National Organization for Women
- UN Women
- Women's Enterprise Organization of Canada
- Specifically for Indigenous women's programs/organizations:
- Clan Mothers Healing Village
- Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
- Manitoba Moon Voices
- Native Women's Transition Centre
- Wahbung Abinoonjiiag (Children of Tomorrow)
- Whaka Pimadiziiwii Pinaysiiwigamic (Thunderbird House)
- Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre
- https://www.awotaan.org/



MMIWG2S+

#RedDressDay

FACT

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FACT

Indigenous girls under 18 are more likely to be reported missing than non-Indigenous girls under 18.

FACT

Indigenous girls are often targets of sexual exploitation and trafficking, with many being lured away from their homes and communities and forced into exploitative situations.

NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

THIS LINK GOES TO THE SAFE PASSAGE WEBSITE CASE MAP

PASSAGE

SAFE 🗘

REMEMBER. REFLECT. DEMAND ACTION.



#RedDressDay





NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



REMEMBER. REFLECT. DEMAND ACTION.

MMIWG2S+

#RedDressDay

4,000 FACELESS DOLLS (OR MORE!) Right across this country

OUR GOAL IS TO BRING AWARENESS

to the more than 4,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. We urge you to join our advocacy by creating as many faceless dolls as you can! Each faceless doll symbolizes a missing or murdered Indigenous woman or girl.



NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

From graphic novel, 'If I Go Missing' by Brianna Jonnie with artwork by Neal Shannacappo