



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

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STATEMENT FROM NWAC on SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Violence against Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people is a crisis across the Americas and here in Canada.

A national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was held in Canada, and a declaration of genocide was made.

On March 29th and 30th, 2021, the International Summit of the Americas on Violence Against Indigenous Women, hosted by the Native Women's Association of Canada, will seek to bring people together from all walks of life in order to discuss this pressing human rights concern and what we all need to do to address it.

The violence that Indigenous women have endured must no longer be ignored. For too long, too many have been ignorant or worse apathetic. We will be #SilentNoMore. The summit is a way for us to take action when very little change has happened in the two years since the MMIWG inquiry and its 231 Calls for Justice. This summit will:

1. Address the violent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people, including on their physical and mental well-being;
2. Examine the intersectionality of violence and explore best practices to address the violence; and
3. Highlight the crucial importance of traditional healing and resiliency.

We are overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and interest in this summit. We are approaching 1,000 participants from our grassroots, Indigenous leaders, government, media, industry, young and old, women, men and gender-diverse people from across the Americas.

We will be talking about painful issues. We will be asking panellists hard questions. This will not be easy. If it were we would have resolved this crisis already. Instead, we must bring together people and organizations that have not come together before. For some, it will feel awkward. For others, it will trigger trauma. A few will be justifiably angry at the thought of a dialogue with those who have let them down, either through ignorance, apathy, or outright racism. But we cannot heal if we do not come together to talk, to educate, to collaborate on a path forward. We hope all people will be part of this dialogue, part of the solution, and part of the healing that must take place.

If you want to participate then please visit us online to learn more and register:

www.nwac.ca/summit-of-the-americas

You can watch a livestream of the two-day summit on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MMIWG-Global-Response-Network-113818964128110>

If you have questions or feedback we hope you will reach out to us:

summitamericas@nwac.ca

Gracias, Merci, Thank you, and Miigwetch.