

Red Dress Day May 5

TODAY marks 16 years of Indigenous people and their allies gathering, marching and holding ceremonies for the hundreds of Indigenous women and girls who are missing or have been murdered in Canada.

The national day of awareness and remembrance, known as Red Dress Day, was inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black after she created the *REDress Project* — an art installation of red dresses hanging in public spaces that serve as a visual reminder of the Indigenous women and girls who are no longer with us.

Since 2010, Indigenous people and allies have taken part in the project — hanging red dresses, creating artwork, and marching together to remember loved ones and call those who are missing back home

The red dress stands as a powerful symbol of their absence—and a call for justice. It represents the loved ones who are still searching for answers and healing. Members are encouraged to take time to reflect, learn, and honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and Girls. The Catholic Women's League of Canada is committed to "walking together" with Indigenous people with supportive action. Members can read the League's Position Paper on Truth and Reconciliation at <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Position-Paper-Truth-and-Reconciliation-2023.pdf>

To learn more about the National Inquiry into MMIWG and the ongoing Calls for Justice: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca>

HOW TO TAKE ACTION ON RED DRESS DAY:

- Wear red on May 5 or display a red dress as a visual sign of remembrance and solidarity;
- Lift up prayers for the families of those who are missing or have been murdered, for Indigenous women and girls facing risk, and for justice and healing in our country;
- educate ourselves by engaging with [*Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*](#), especially the 231 Calls for Justice;
- Write to elected officials demanding full implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice.
- support Indigenous-led ministries
- Listen to the stories of survivors and families and amplify the voices with consent. Attend local vigils, walks, and events.
- Donate to Indigenous-led organizations and support land defenders.
- Educate yourself and your community about the issues.

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