

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** San Francisco, California - May 20 at San Francisco City Hall

**San Francisco's Inaugural Missing Murdered Indigenous Peoples Dinner at 5:30PM**

San Francisco ranks in the top 10 cities for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, while Indigenous women across the US face murder rates ten times the national average. The State of California has a long history of improperly handling and misclassifying cases concerning Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous women and girls are listed as the wrong race in 56% of cases, and 37% of known cases in Northern California were misclassified as suicide, undetermined, or accidental, highlighting the urgent need for improved law enforcement practices to address this crisis.

In acknowledgment of this epidemic and in solidarity with affected families, Indigenous Justice, in collaboration with the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), announces its inaugural MMIP Dinner, scheduled for today, Monday, May 20th, 2024, inside the Main Rotunda of San Francisco City Hall.

Indigenous Justice is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing systemic injustices and advocating for the rights and dignity of Indigenous communities through advocacy, education, and direct support. For the past few years, DOSW has partnered with Indigenous Justice to raise awareness of the ongoing violence that Indigenous communities face. This will be the first year that an MMIP event will take place inside the walls of City Hall instead of outside on the steps.

The event will honor the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous individuals, support the families and communities affected by this violence, and reaffirm San Francisco's commitment to healing and justice. Additionally, the event will mark the launch of a DOSW supported pilot, the Economic Mobility Project, which will provide survivors of violence with a monthly stipend for one year.

The evening will showcase speeches from Indigenous Justice leaders and the family of Jessica Alva, whose 2019 murder sparked calls for justice nationwide. The program also includes a traditional blessing, an Honor Song for Local Heroes, and performances featuring the Round Valley Yuki Dancers. Dinner will be catered by Oakland restaurant, Whapepahs Kitchen, featuring traditional Indigenous cuisine.

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