



Tohono O'odham Nation
Office of the
Chairman and Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



Friday, May 5, 2023

**Executive Office Statement on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons
Awareness Day**

SELLS, Ariz. – Today, we commemorate Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day on the Tohono O'odham Nation and across the United States. It is a solemn occasion to remember those we have lost and those that are still missing, particularly Native women and girls.

It is also a day to reaffirm our shared commitment to confronting this crisis affecting tribal communities. The Tohono O'odham Nation continues to work with our partners at the federal, state, and local level to investigate and prosecute these cases while supporting families who have lost loved ones. We appreciate the tireless dedication of the Nation's law enforcement personnel in addressing this urgent issue.

While there has been progress in addressing this, there is still much more that needs to be done. Greater attention and resources are needed to combat the root causes of the disproportionate murders and missing persons cases that afflict indigenous communities -- issues of domestic violence, economic disparity, substance abuse and others.

Only by continuing to work together can we put an end to this crisis and build a safer, stronger and more prosperous future for the Tohono O'odham Nation and all indigenous people. Today, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to this goal, and continue the hard work of ensuring justice for all.

Ned Norris, Jr.
Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation

Wavalene M. Saunders
Vice Chairwoman, Tohono O'odham Nation