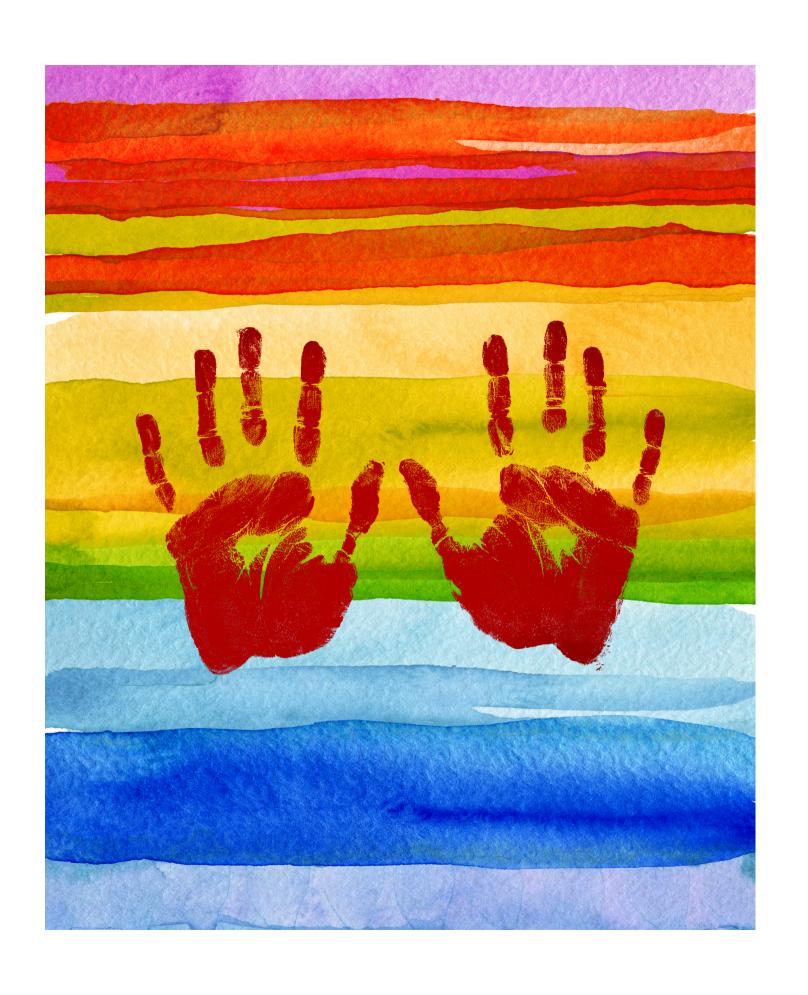


## MMIW/MMIWG2S (Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two-Spirit)

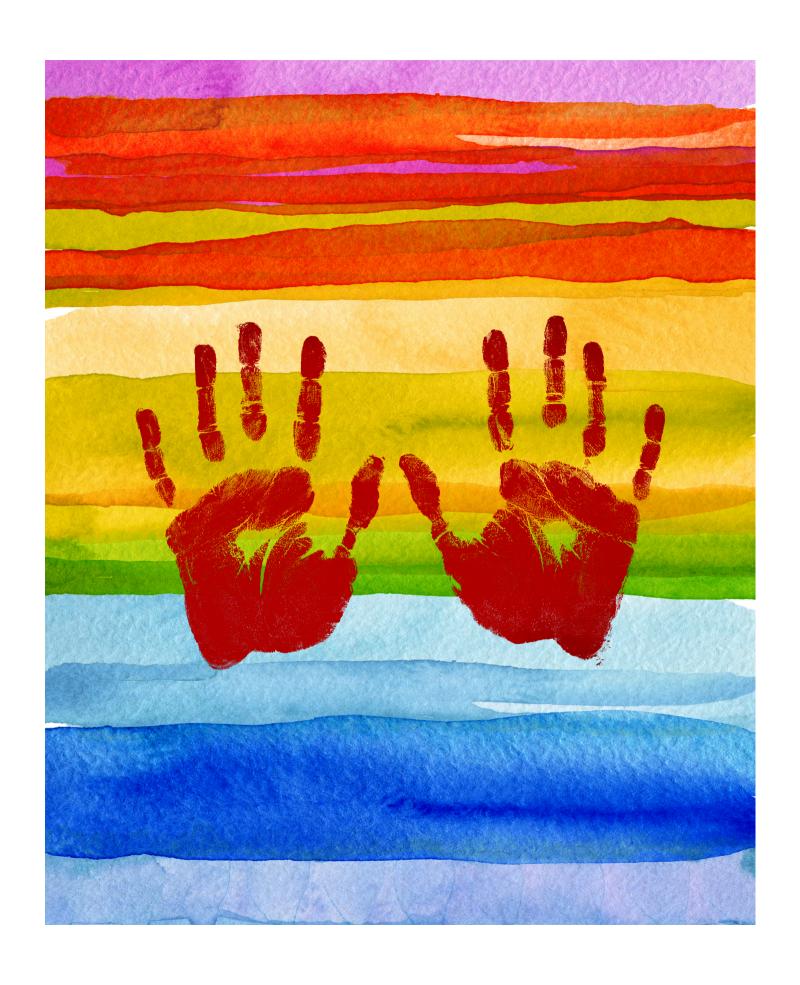
Dr. Luhui Whitebear (Coastal Chumash, she/her)
Oregon State University
Assistant Professor, School of Language, Culture, & Society
Center Director, Kaku-Ixt Mana Ina Haws

Western Oregon University: Student Affairs November 19, 2021



### Session Takeaways

- Learn about the MMIW/MMIWG2S+ crisis and the ways in which we can all help to end these violences.
- Understand historic and current day contributors to the MMIWG2S+ crisis
- Understand how the MMIWG2S+ crisis impacts Indigenous students
- Recognize this is a systemic issue that will take systemic change
- Tangible ways to help address this crisis



## Content Warning

- Sexual violence
- Gendered violence
- Settler colonial violence
- Generational trauma



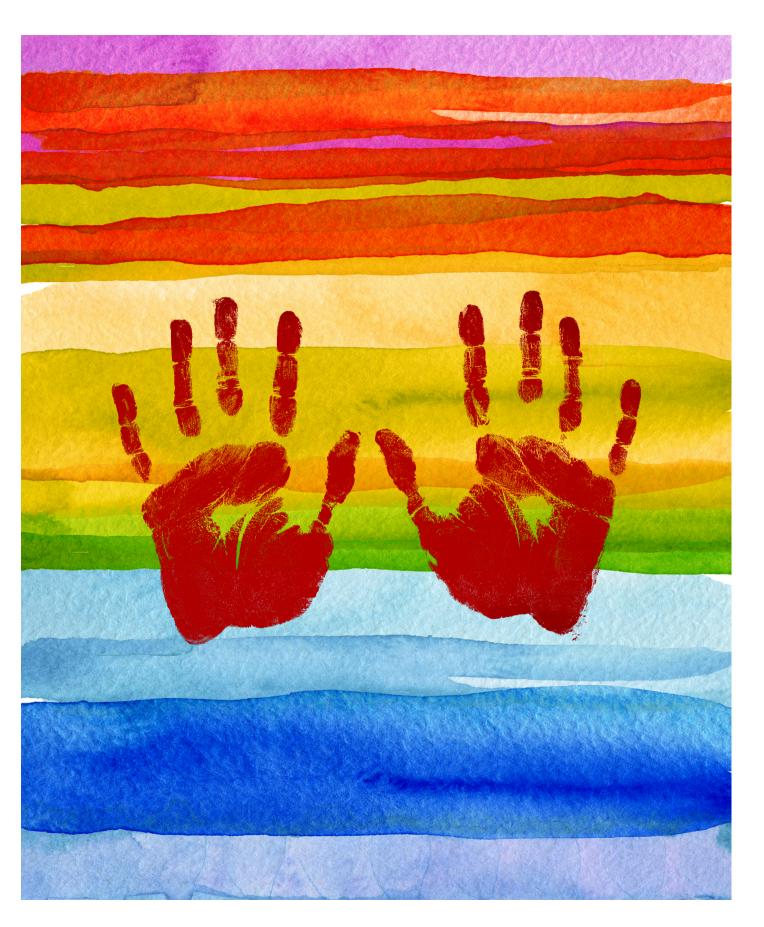
### Terminology

<u>Indigenous:</u> original people of these lands. Not a term to supersede Tribal/Nation/community words for specific populations.

<u>Woman/women/girl(s):</u> gender identity, not the same as sex assigned at birth. Includes trans women and girls.

<u>Two-Spirit:</u> Contemporary umbrella term for use only by Indigenous folk within the LGBTQI2S+ community as a unifier. Term to acknowledge identity and responsibilities within one's Indigenous community.

<u>Settler colonialism:</u> the process of going to a land and asserting one's own governing structures, belief systems, and norms as superior while striving to replace the existing systems. Not the same as immigration.

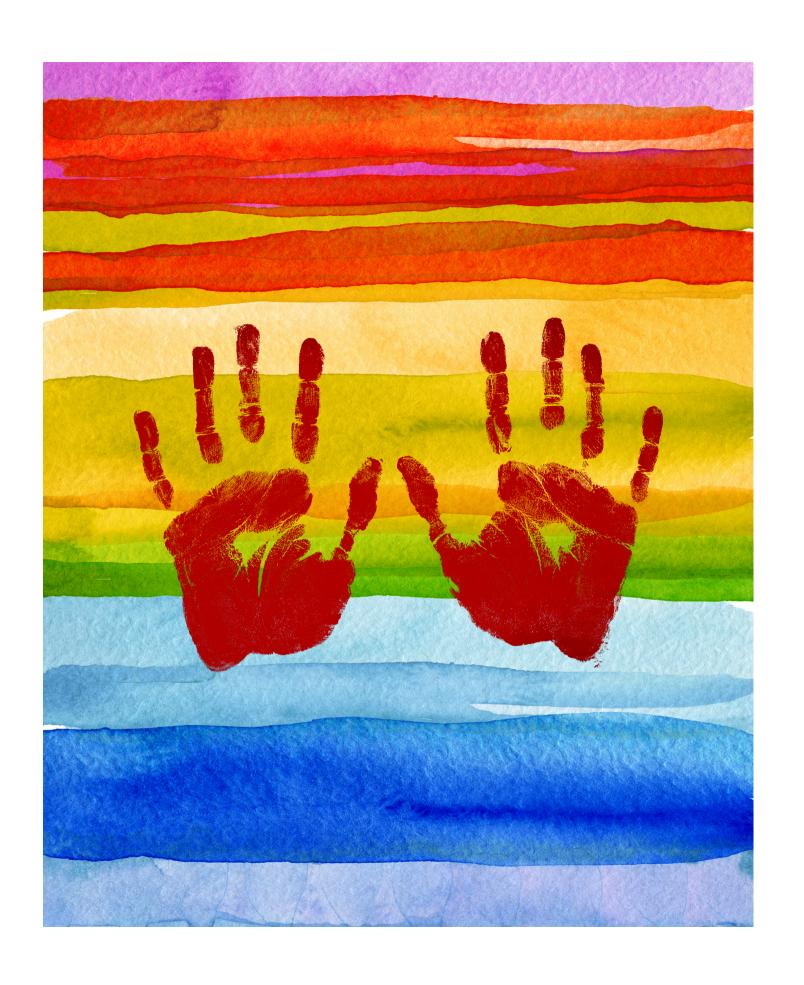


## Terminology Epidemic vs Crisis

"The word epidemic also suggests a short-term, isolated problem. ... Using the word epidemic deflects responsibility because it fails to acknowledge the agency of perpetrators and those who allow the problem to continue. The world also utterly fails to account for the crisis's roots in history and law."

Sarah Deer, The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America, pp ix-x

"The connotation of the word allows society to absolve itself of blame."



### Historic overview

- Rape as a tool of conquest and control at contact (i.e. encouraged by Columbus)
- Trans-Atlantic trafficking/slavery of Indigenous people at contact (mostly younger people)
- Patriarchal norms of governance and disregard for women and Two-Spirit people's political autonomy
- Gendercide



"Balboas's Dogs Attacking a Group of Panamanian Sodomites." etching by Theodor de Bry

## Historic overview Gendercide

- Targeting of women and Two-Spirit people
- Viewed as "uncivilized," "sinful," conquerable
- Destabilized political systems, governing structures, and societal norms
- Created sense of fear within communities
- No accountability for the gendercide by colonizers















### Reflection

- What does it mean to have a master narrative about the Oregon Trail that romanticizes pedophilia?
- How does this impact local Tribes to this day?
- How does understanding Pocahontas' story amplify reasons "sexy Indian" costumes are problematic?
- How might this impact Indigenous college students?



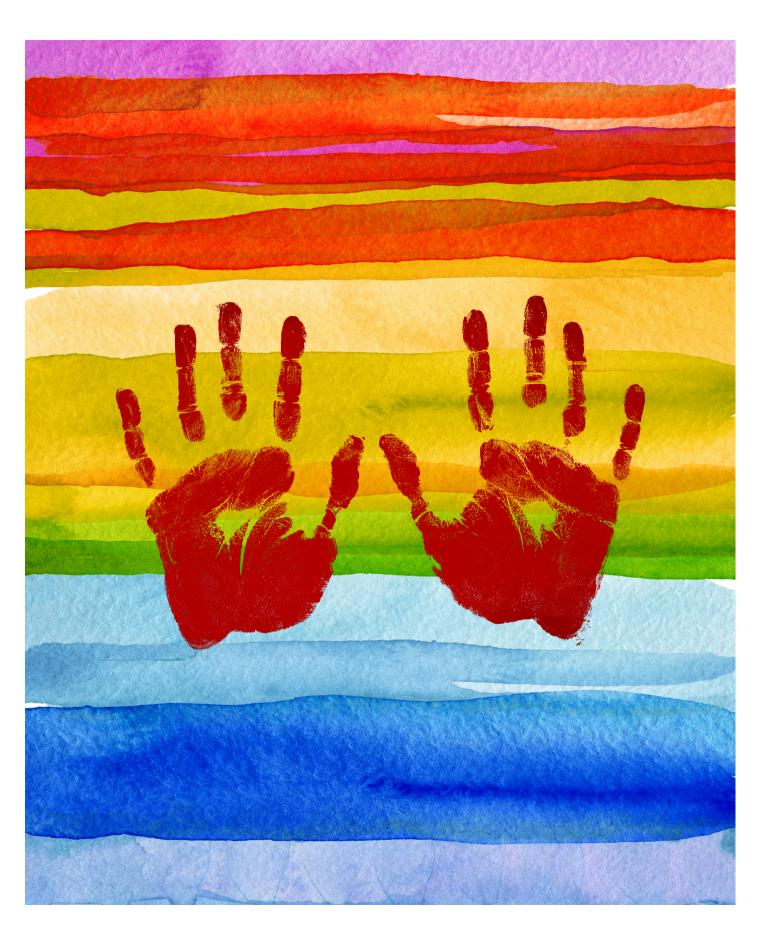
- kidnapping and rape become a love story
- forced servitude and assimilation become a story of bravery
- children become women
- a national imaginary is created to absolve colonizers from responsibility
- silence around these violences is normalized and expected



# Historic overview Takeaways

- this is not a new crisis
- young girls and teens are framed as adults to avoid talking about pedophilia and child rape
- kidnapped and trafficked people's stories are reinvented by dominant discourse
- gendercide in Indigenous communities must be talked about
- silence is intentional
- this all set the stage for where we are today

\*\*underreporting of sexual assault on college campuses is a reality, especially for Indigenous students of all genders.\*\*



# Historic overview Theft of Children by Law

- Indian Civilization Act Fund (1819) supported religious groups establishing schools on reservations to help "civilize" Indigenous children and set the stage for what was to come.
- California Act for the Government and Protection of Indians (1850) put into state law the ability to remove Indigenous children and enslave them
- First boarding school opened at Fort Simcoe on the Yakama Indian Reservation (1860)
- Carlisle Indian Industrial School opened as the flagship off reservation boarding school (1879)

### Historic overview: Theft of Children

#### **American Indian Boarding Schools by State**

Alabama 1

Asbury Manual Labor School and Mission

#### Alaska 33

Anvik Mission (Christ Church) Bethel Regional High School Copper Valley Covenant High School **Douglas Island Friends Mission School** Eklutna (Tyonek)

Fairbanks\* Friends High School Holy Cross

Kanakanak (Dillingham-Kanakanak Kodiak Aleutian Regional High School Mount Edgecumbe Nenana High School\*\* Nunapitsinghak Moravian Children's Hor

Palmer House Pius Tenth Mission Seward Sanitarium Sitka Industrial Training School

(Sheldon Jackson)\* St. Mark's Mission St. Mary's Victory Bible Schoo

White Mountain William F. Beltz School (Nome-Beltz) Woody Island Mission and Orphanage

#### Arizona 🛐

Colorado River Dilcon Community School\* Fort Apache (Theodore Roosevelt) Fort Defiance Fort Moiave Industrial Schoo Gila River St. Peter School Globe New Jerusalem Greasewood Springs Community School Greyhills Academy High School\*\*

Hunter's Point Indian School\* Jeehdeez'a Academy Kaibeto Indian School Kaventa Indian School\*

Lukachukai Community School

Naa Tsis' Ana Community School

Many Farms High School\*

Navaio Training School

Nazlini Community School\*

Navaio Mountain

Low Mountain\*

March Pass

Fort Lapwai Keams Canvon\* Kinlichee Indian School Sacred Heart Convent of Mary Immaculate Kingman Indian School St. Josephs

Indiana 2

St. Joseph's Indian Normal School White Manual Labor Institute

Kansas 7

Haskell Industrial Training School (now Haskell Indian Nations University)\*

Phoenix Indian School Pine Springs

Rice Station Rocky Ridge\* Rough Rock Community School

Santa Rosa Ranch\* Technology HS)\*

St. Michaels Industrial\* St. Johns Mission at Gila Crossing

Tucson Indian Training School Western Navajo Wide Ruins Wide Ruins Community School

California 10 Fort Ridwell Indian School Fort Yuma Indian School Greenville Indian Industrial

Perris Indian School Round Valley Indian School Sherman Institute\* \*

St. Anthony's Industrial School St. Boniface Indian Industrial Scho St Turibius Industrial

ort Lewis Indian School

Grand Junction

Holy Cross Abbey

lowa 3

Toledo Industrial

Idaho 6

Sac & Fox

Fort Hall

Good Shepherd Industrial School

White's Iowa Manual Labor Institut

Colorado 6

Blackfeet\*

Flathead Fort Relknar Fort Peck Fort Shaw Indian Boarding School Holy Family Mission

Holy James Mission St Xavier Mission (Pretty Fagle Catholic Academy)\* Prvor Creek St. Ignatius Mission St. Labre Mission\*

St. Paul's Mission School (Mission Grade School)\* St. Peter's Tongue Rive Willow Creek

Nebraska 🕡

Genoa Indian Industrial School Iowa Industrial School Omaha Indian School Oto and Missouri Agency Industri Santee Industrial School Santee Normal Training School St. Augustine's

Nevada 🚯

Stewart Indian School Fort McDermitt Western Shoshone Indian School

Training School)

Chichiltah/Jones Ranch

Ch'ooshgai Community (Chuska)\*

Fort Wingate Indian School\*

Lake Valley Indian Scho

Ojo Encino Indian Schoo

Santa Fe Indian School\*

St. Catherine Indian School

Windgate Indian School

New York 3

for Indian Children

Pueblo Pintado Indian School

Jicarilla Apache

Mescalero Apache

Navajo Prep\*

Pueblo Bonito

Dzilth-Na-0-Dith-Hle Community School

Shawnee Mission Manual Labor School New Mexico 26 Albuquerque Indian School (Indian Pueblo

Michigan 5 Holy Childhood of Jesus School Holy Name (Chippewa) Baraga Mount Pleasant Industrial St. Joseph's Orphanage

Minnesota (B) Cass/Leech Lake Clontarf (St. Paul's Industrial School)

Kaw Manual Labor School

Osage Manual Labor School/St. Francis

Potowatamie Manual Labor School

Convent of our Lady of the Lake Morris Industrial (Sisters of Mercy) Pine Point Pinestone Indian School

St. Benedict's Orphan School (St. Joseph's

St. Francis Xavier's Industrial School St. Mary's Mission\* St.Theodore's Vermillion Lake Indian School White Earth Boarding School (St. Benedict's

Mississippi

Montana 17 Bond's Mission School (Montana Industria

North Dakota (12) Bismark Indian School Fort Berthold Fort Totten Indian Scho Maddock Agricultural and Training School

Sacred Heart Mission Seven Dolors Mission St. Mary (Turtle Mountain St. Michael's Mission Standing Rock Agency Agricultural/ Martin Kennel Standing Rock Indian Industrial School Wahpeton Indian School

(Now Circle of Nations)\* Ohio 1

> Shawnee Friends Mission and School Oklahoma 83

Arapaho Manual Labor and Boarding School (Concho)

Armstrong Academy Asbury Manual Labor School Bacone College (Indian University) Bloomfield Academy (Bloomfield

Seminary; Carter Seminary; now Chickasaw Children's Village omfield Academy for Girls Burney Institute (Burney Institute for Girls Lebanon Orphan School; Chickasaw Orphan Home and Manual Labor School) Cantonment Indian Schoo

kee Indian Orphan Schoo Cheyenne Manual Labor and Boarding Chickasaw Manual Labor Academy for Bo

Chickasaw Orphan Home and Manual Chilocco Indian Agricultural School Chuala Female Seminary Collins (Colbert) Institute Coweta Mission (Koweta Boarding School) Darlington Mennonite Missio

**Edwards University** El Meta Bond College Emahaka Mission School for Girls Euchee (Yuchi) Eufaula Boarding School for Girls (National

High School at Eufaula; now Eufaula Dormitory)\* Folsom Training School Fort Coffee Academy for Boys Fort Sill Indian School

Convent of Our Lady of Mercy Goodland Academy (Old Goodland Indian Orphanage)\* Tunasassa Friends Boarding Scho Harrell International Institute (Snauld Female College) Henry Kendall College (Presbyterian Schoo North Carolina

for Indian Girls; Minerva Home; now the University of Tulsa) Hillside Mission Hominy Creek (St. John's) Iowa Mission Jones Academy/Jones Male Academy Mekasukev Academy

Murray School of Agriculture (Murray State College)3 Murrow Indian Orphanage Nazareth (College) Institute Norwalk Academy for Boys Nuvaka Mission Nuvaka School and Orphanage Oak Hill Industrial Academy (Alice Lee Elliott Memorial Academy) Oak Ridge Manual Labor School

Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Women

(Calvin Institute/Durant Presbyterian

Pawnee Boarding and Training School

Pawnee Industrial Boarding School

Osage Boarding School

Peran Creek Mission

Ponca Indian School

West Philadelphia Industrial South Dakota 23

Riverside Indian School

Sac & Fox Indian School

Seger Industrial Schoo

Seneca Boarding School

St. Elizabeth Schoo

St. Mary's School

Seguovah High School (now Seguova

St. Benedict's Industrial School (Sacred

Tullahassee Manual Labor Boarding Schoo

Wapanucka Academy for Girls (Allen's

Wealaka Mission (replaced Tullahasse

Wapanucka Institute)

Vetumka Mission (Levering)

Wheelock Female Seminaries)

Yellow Springs School

Oregon 9

Academy/ Chickasaw Rock Academy/

Wewoka Mission Boarding School for Girls

Wheelock Academy (Wheelock Mission and

awa Indian School (Salem Indian

Industrial School: Harrison Institute)\*

Kate Drexel/St. Andrews Industrial School

Yaimax Indian Boarding School for Girls

Pennsylvania 6

Girls' Home of the Lincoln Institution

Boys' Home (Lincoln Institute)

Holy Providence School for Indians

Carlisle Indian Industrial School

Forest Grove Indian Training School

Klamath Indian School for Boys

Umatilla

Warm Springs

Sasakwa Female Academ

All Saint's Brainard Chamberlain Indian School Chevenne River Flandreau School/Riggs Institute\* Holy Rosary Mission/Red Cloud Indian School\*

Immaculate Conception Indian School Stephan Mission/Crow Creek\* Lower Brule Marty Indian School (St. Paul's Indian Mission)

Oglala Indian School Our Lady of Lourdes\* Pierre Indian School\* Pine Ridae Rapid City Indian School Sisseton Sioux Indian School Springfield Indian School

St. Francis Indian School (Rosebud) St. John's School for Girls St. Joseph's Indian School\* St. Mary's School for Girls Tekakwitha Indian Mission (orphanage) Yankton Reservation Industrial

Utah 4

Intermountain Indian School

Virginia 1

Washington (B)

Colville Mission School hman Indian School Fort Spokane Indian School Male and Female Industrial School Oneida Indian School

St. George's Mission St. Francis Regis Mission St. Mary's (now Pascal Sherman India School)\* Tulalip Indian Schoo Yakima/Fort Simcoa

Wisconsin 12

Good Shenard Industrial School Hayward Indian School - Milwaukee Holy Family (Bayfield) Keshena/Menominee Lac de Flambeau Menominee Oneida Indian School St. Joseph's Industrial School St. Marv's Tomah Indian Industrial School Wittenberg Indian School - Bethany Mission

Wyoming 5 Fort Washakie/Wind River

Hayward Indian School Robert's Episcopal Mission for St. Michael's Mission St. Stephen's Mission Industrial School



### 367 Schools

73 remain open today 15 still boarding

#### 29 States

The top five states with the most boarding schools were:

Oklahoma (83) Arizona (51) Alaska (33) New Mexico (26) South Dakota (25)

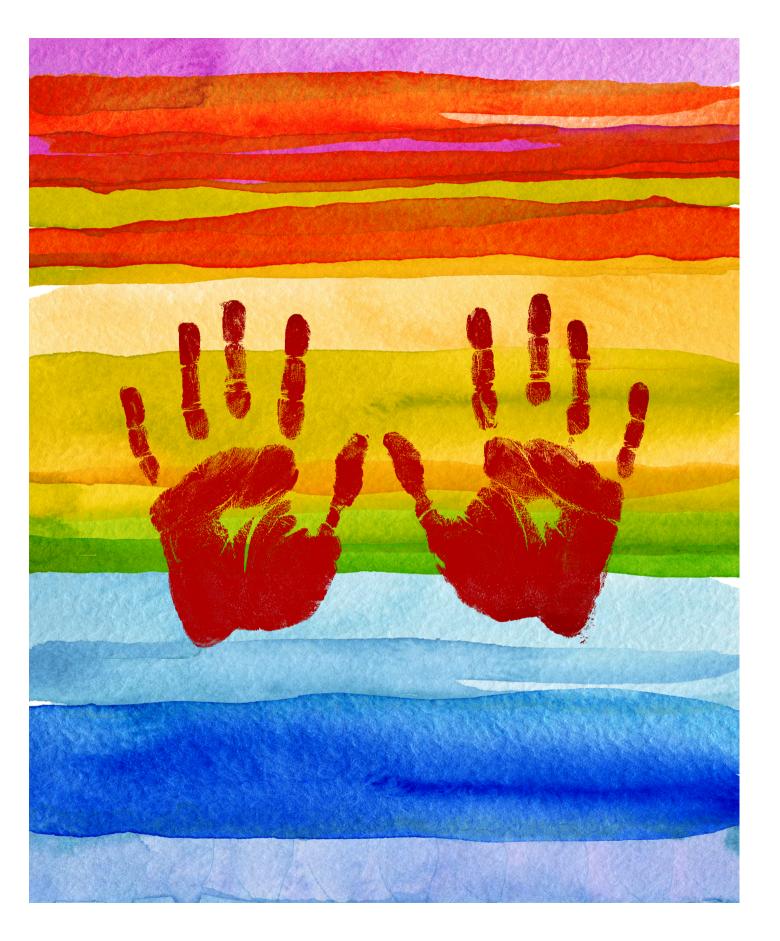
#### 14 Denominations

Catholic (80) Presbyterian (21) Quaker (15) **Episcopal (9)** Methodist (12) Baptist (4) Jesuit (4)

**Dutch Reformed (2)** Evangelical (2) Mennonite (2) Protestant (2) Anglican (1) 7th Day Adventist (1) Unitarian (1)

Originally compiled by Dr. Denise Lajimodiere for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), this list also includes considerable contributions from Dr. Rose Miron, Dr. Samuel B. Torres, and Ellie Heaton. This list may not be complete.

"By 1926, nearly 83% of Indian school-age children were attending boarding schools." (boardingschoolhealing. org



## Historic overview Role of Law & Policy

- Major Crimes Act (1885) stripped Tribes from authority to prosecute certain crimes on their own lands
- Oliphant v. Suquamish (1978) ruled Tribes have no criminal jurisdiction over non-Native people
- Tribal Law & Order Act (2010) increased Tribal sentencing ability and law enforcement presence
- VAWA Reauthorization (2013) allowed for prosecution of non-Native people for intimate partner crimes

\*Even with increased jurisdiction and funding promises, funds were largely not allocated to support these changes.





# Where We Are Now Role of Law & Policy

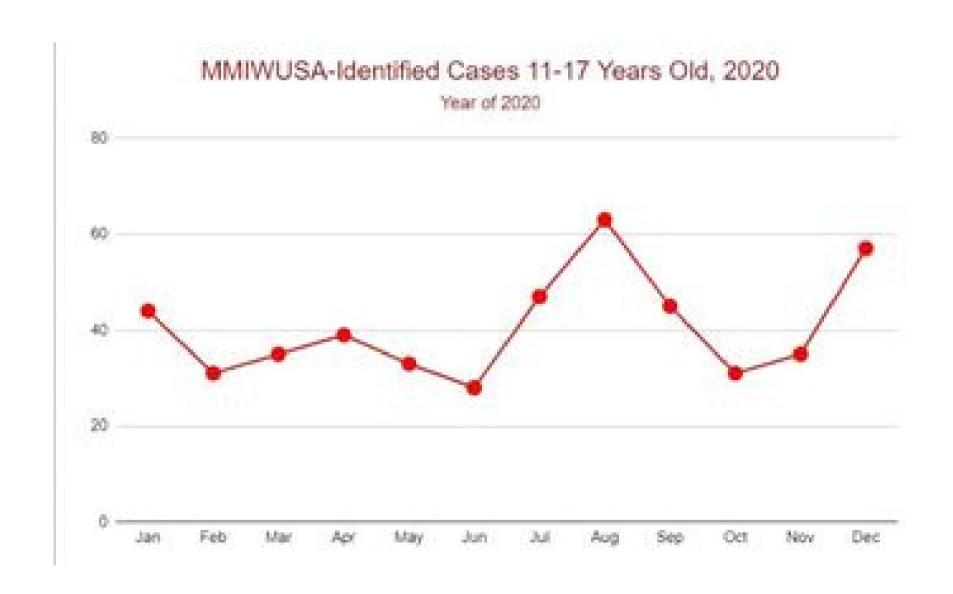
- VAWA Reauthorization (2013) allowed for prosecution of non-Native people for intimate partner crimes
- Oregon HB 2625 (2019) launched an inter agency investigation to look into Oregon's MMIW numbers
- Savanah's Act (2020) reforms MMIW law enforcement and justice protocols
- Not Invisible Act (2020) mandated a commission to coordinate intergovernmental efforts to address MMIW
- OLJ Cold Case Offices (2020) established several MMIW cold case offices nationwide

# Historic overview MMIW/MMIWG2S

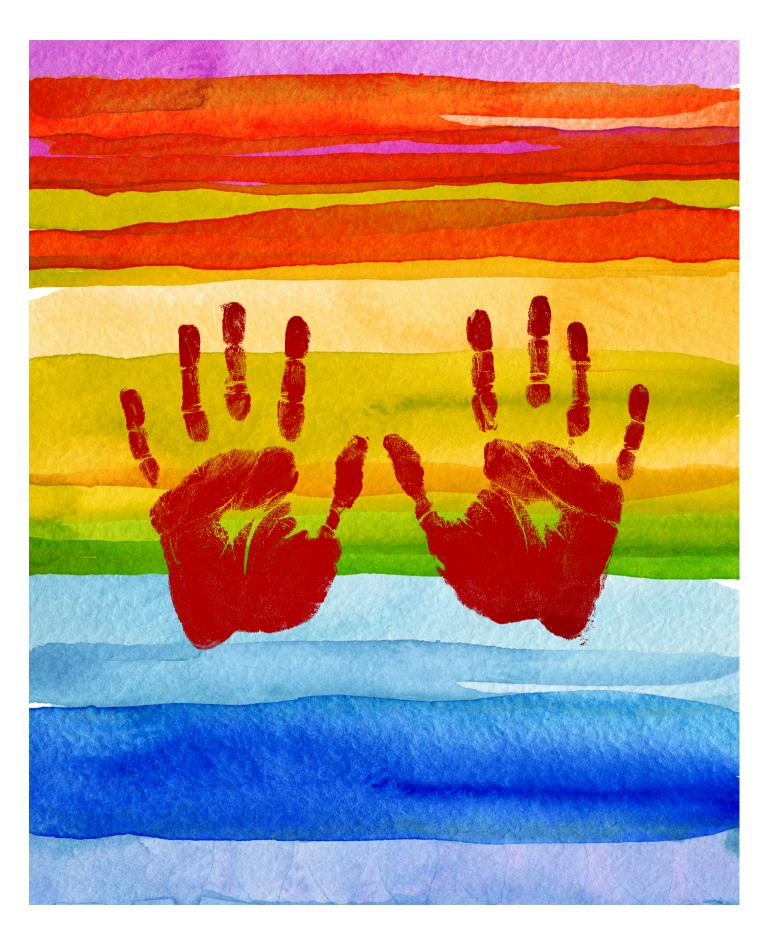
- effort out of Canada by First Nations women and Two-Spirit people
- Canada launched an official investigation in 2016
- #MMIW helped spread awareness to the U.S.
- MMIW USA (based in Portland, OR) was formed in 2013 to help families with searches and recoveries. has branched out to prevention as well.
- MMIW is an international movement with grassroots organizers (primarily women and Two-Spirit people) across Canada, the United States, and Mexico

# The impacts on youth MMIW/MMIWG2S



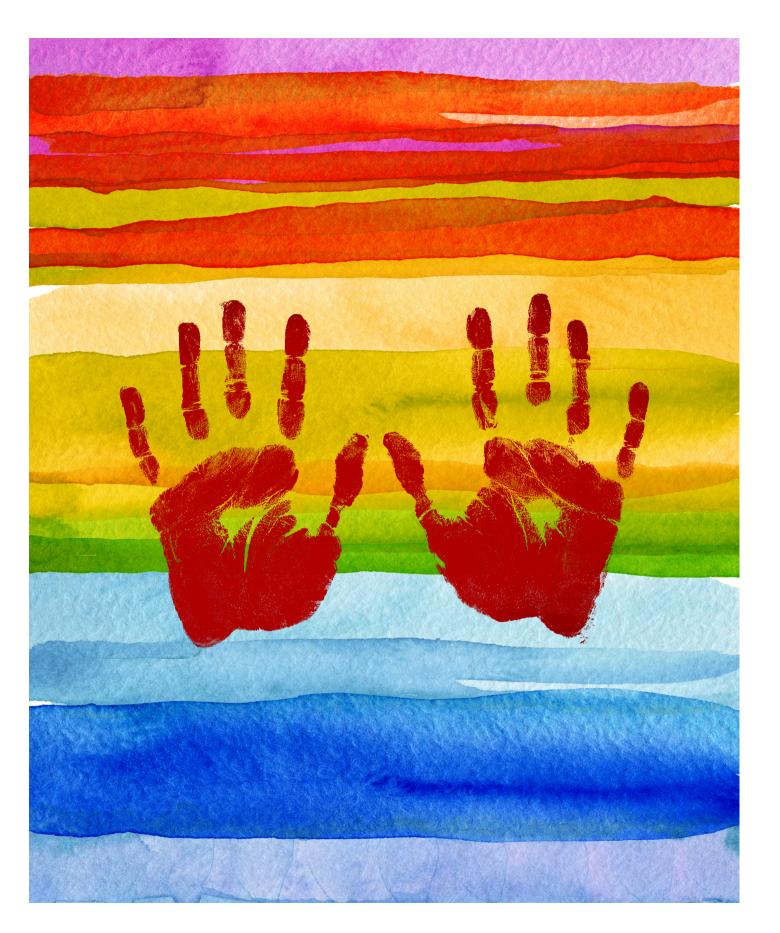


\*\*Indigenous students carry trauma before they get to college campuses.\*\*



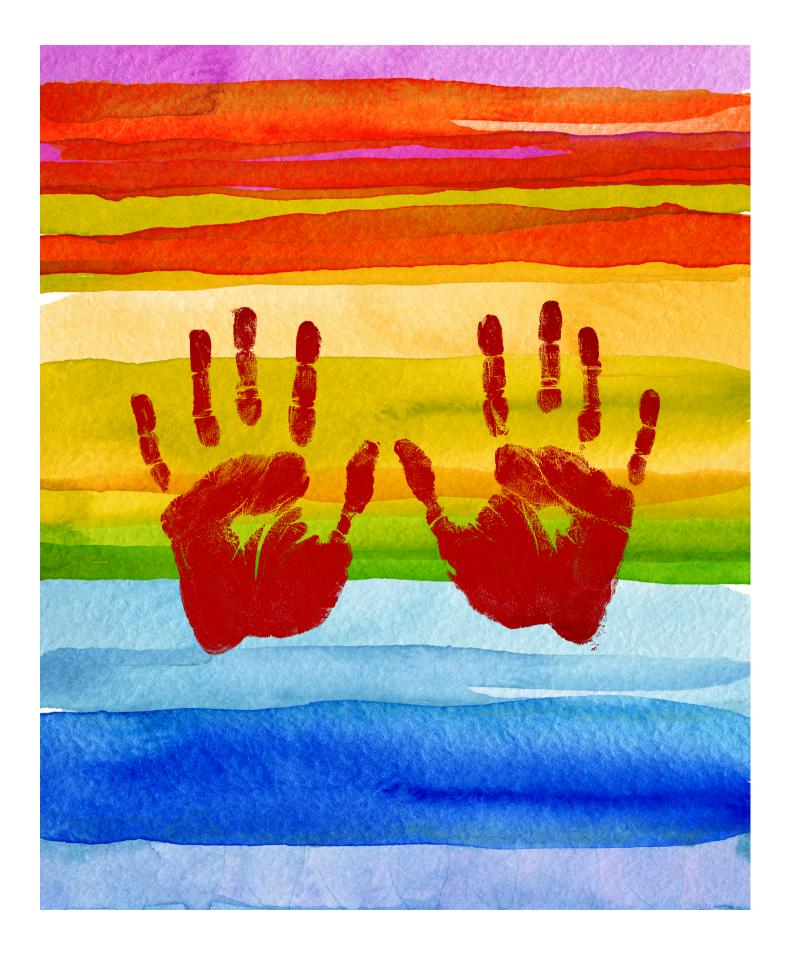
### Reflection

- How does dominant discourse and pop culture reinforce violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people?
- Why is talking about this at multiple levels necessary to create change?
- How can learning more about this impact Student Affairs work, especially as it relates to supporting Indigenous students?



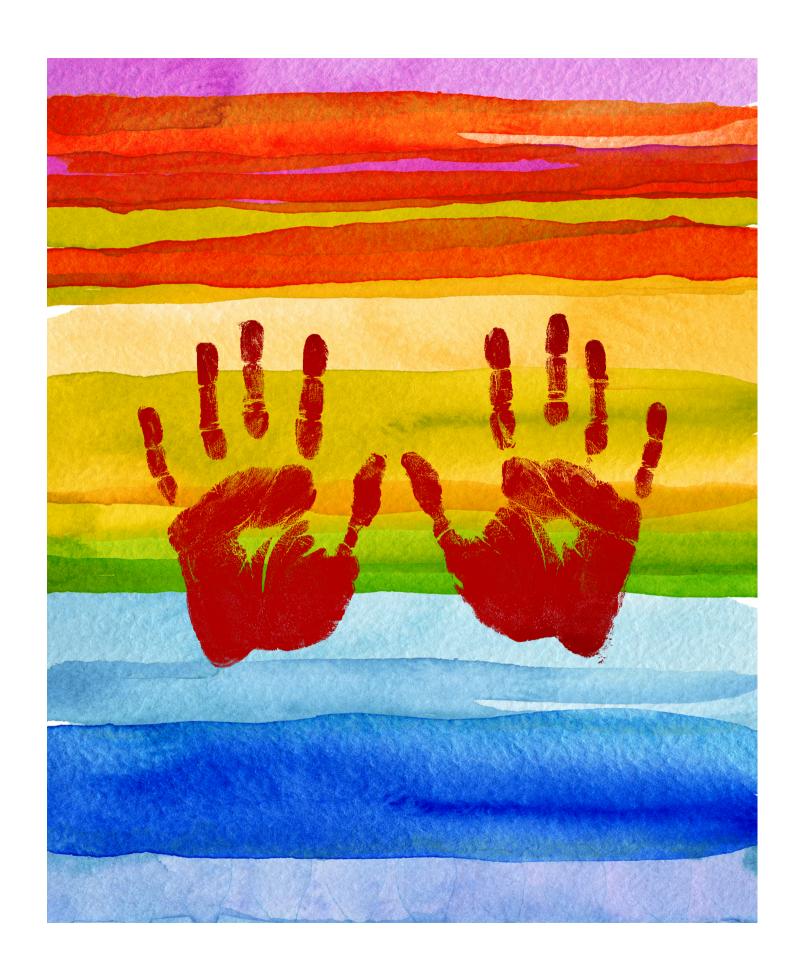
### How you can help

- If you are a policy maker, evaluate the tie to historic experiences of communities impacted.
- Grassroots organizers are doing on the ground work and need to be involved with major decisions.
- Advocate for local and national laws and policies being developed. (i.e. VAWA is still not reauthorized)
- Follow groups doing the work on social media and/or listservs
- Share information about missing people. It saves lives.
- Continue to learn more beyond this session.



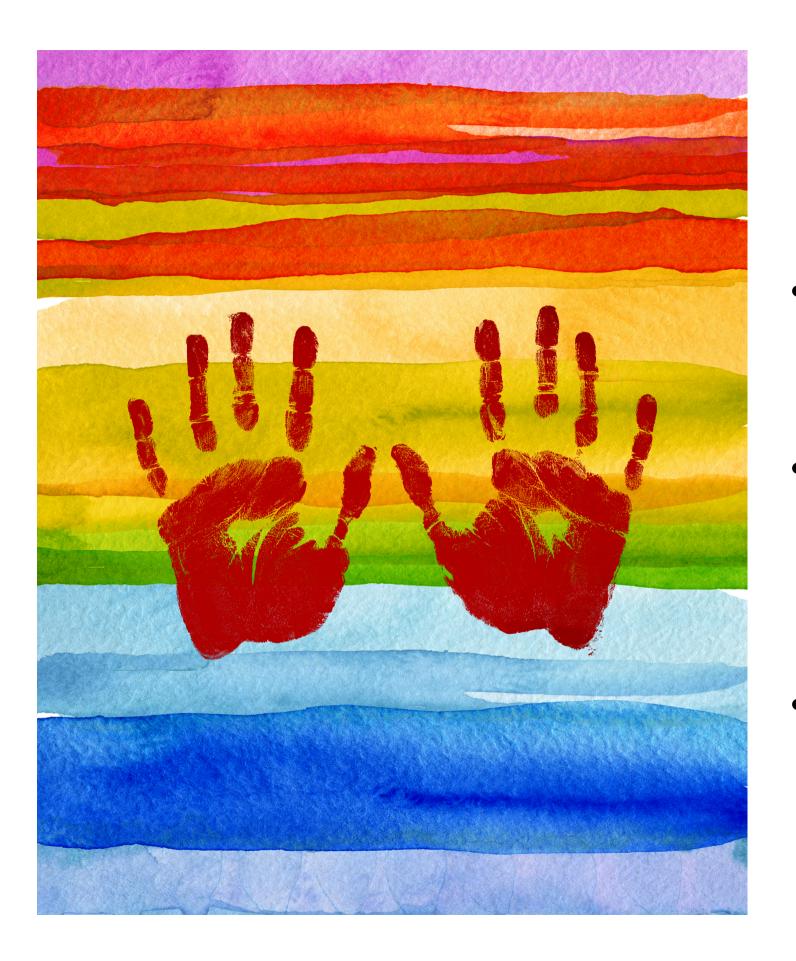
## Organizations to follow

- MMIW USA
- Sovereign Bodies Institute
- Urban Indian Health Institute
- OLJ's listserv
- The National Native American Boarding School Healing Project



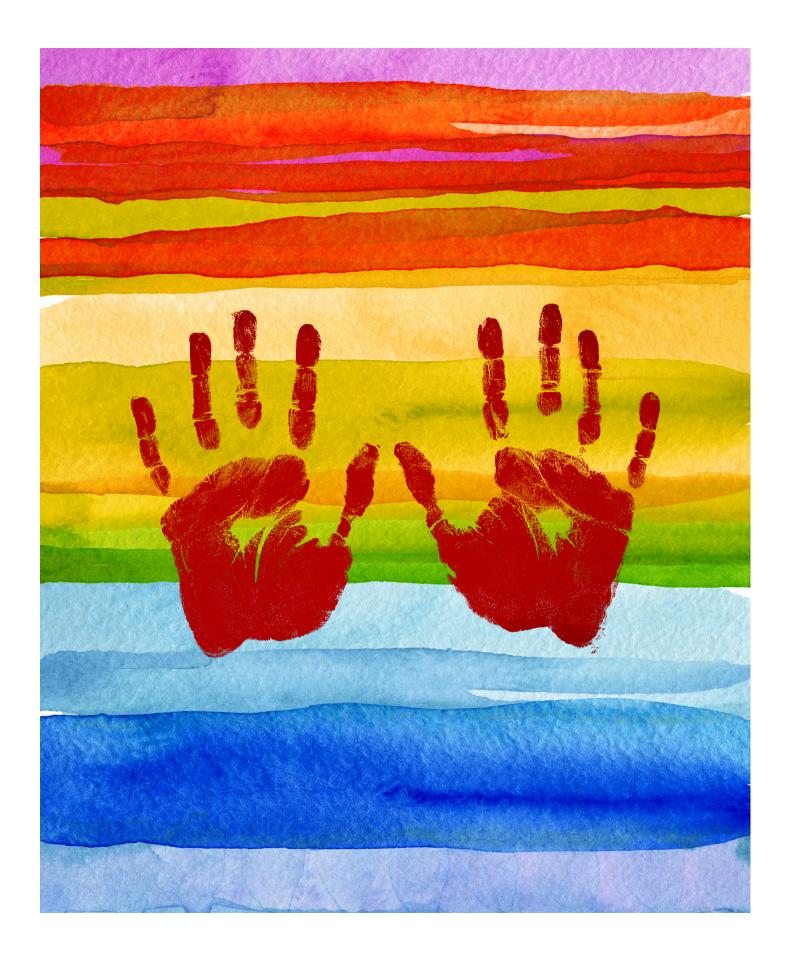
### What's next?

Write down you will take to learn more and/or advocate for change, then share with the group (if you're comfortable)



# Presenter Publications (related to MMIW)

- 2020 & the Elections Can't Stop Us: Hashtagging Change through Indigenous Activism (Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal)
- VAWA Reauthorization of 2013 and the Continued Legacy of Violence Against Indigenous Women: A Critical Outsider Jurisprudence Perspective (University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review)
- Oppression from Within: AIM, Heteropatriarchy, Settler Colonialism, and the Death of Anna Mae Aquash (Oregon State University Scholars Archives)



### Questions & Answers

Contact:

luhui.whitebear@oregonstate.edu