

The National Day of Awareness and Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S)



[Source](#)

Red Dress Day, May 5

Red Dress Day is designated to honour the lives and memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people across Canada.

- The day is marked by the display of red dresses hung in windows, on fences, balconies, and in trees, symbolizing their connection to Mother Earth. These dresses serve as powerful visual reminders of the pain, loss, and ongoing impacts experienced by families, survivors, and Indigenous communities and nations as a result of the MMIWG2S+ crisis. [Source](#)

Origins of Red Dress Day

- Red Dress Day is observed annually to demand justice for victims and honour the lives lost. Red Dress Day can be traced back to an art project created by [Canadian Métis artist Jaime Black](#).
- Black started the "REDress Project" in 2010 to bring attention to the shocking number of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (MMIWG2S+) who go missing and are murdered in Canada.
- Red dresses draped in black were draped over trees and lampposts in public areas, to make a visual contrast that conveyed both resiliency and sadness.

Did you know...

According to Indigenous teachings, RED, it is also the only colour that spirits can see.

- A way of reconnecting the lost spirits of the missing women, girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) with their loved ones. [Source](#)
- 6 in 10 violent crimes against Indigenous women are never reported. [Source](#)
- Between 1956 and 2016, an estimated 4,000 Indigenous women and girls and 600 Indigenous men and boys went missing or were murdered. [Source](#)

Event

- [Red Dress Day Gathering Circle](#) | May 5 | TMU - SLC 8th Floor of the Student Learning Centre (SLC) at 341 Yonge St. | Open to community members
- [Red Dress Exhibit](#) | May 5 | Sankofa Square (Formerly Yonge-Dundas)

Learn more about Red Dress Day

- [Red Dress Day: What it is and how it began](#) | CBC Kids
- [Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, a Canadian Responsibility](#) | Sophie Kiwala | YouTube
- [Erased by law: How Canada's second-generation cut-off threatens the future of First Nations](#) | Amnesty Canada
- [Performance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#) | Fairness Works | YouTube

How to participate in Red Dress Day

Across Canada, including Toronto, communities gather for candlelight vigils. By wearing red, hanging red dresses in public spaces, or participating in other actions to raise awareness and show solidarity with all Indigenous women, girls, and victims of the MMIWG crisis

- [RED DRESS DAY in the workplace](#) | Inclusive Employer Guide | University of Toronto
- [How you can show support and be a Red Dress ally](#) | Neighbours United
- [10 ways to be a genuine ally to First Nations communities](#) | Amnesty International

This resource was developed by Sophia Okyere-Oduro, Anti-Racism Implementation Specialist. If you have any comments or would like to suggest additional resources, please e-mail ideaa@hollandbloorview.ca

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