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Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives

Operation Lady Justice

Background

The Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, also known as Operation Lady Justice, is focused on enhancing the operation of the criminal justice system and addressing the legitimate concerns of American Indian and Alaska Native communities regarding missing and murdered people – particularly missing and murdered women and girls.

President Trump signed Executive Order 13898 on November 26, 2019, forming the two-year Task Force. The group will carry out a number of specific activities, and submit reports to the President in November of 2020 and November 2021. The Task Force is Co-Chaired by Attorney General William P. Barr and Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt.

The work of the Task Force is concentrated on meeting with tribal leaders and communities, improving the response by law enforcement, communities and systems, reviewing research and data collection, and developing an outreach campaign.

Operation Lady Justice Accomplishments

Since beginning work in late January, 2020, the Task Force has:

Conducted Listening Sessions with:



- ▶ NCAI's Executive Council, Winter Session
- ▶ DOI's Tribal Interior Budget Committee
- ▶ HHS ACF's Tribal Advisory Committee
- ▶ HHS's ANA Grantees Meeting
- ▶ DOJ's Tribal Nations Leadership Council

Launched the Task Force website [OperationLadyJustice.usdoj.gov](https://www.operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov) which will include:



- ▶ Schedule of tribal outreach events
- ▶ Read outs from prior sessions
- ▶ Links to resources
- ▶ FAQs and facts sheets
- ▶ Tribal and state efforts
- ▶ Working group progress



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Formed Working Groups developing:



- ▶ Model Protocols and Procedures for missing persons or murder cases in AIAN communities
- ▶ Multidisciplinary Cold Case Teams to review cold cases of both missing persons and murder cases
- ▶ Education and Outreach Campaign for affected AIAN communities
- ▶ Training for law enforcement, victim services, communities and families
- ▶ Comprehensive guides to available resources
- ▶ Relationships with existing tribal and state task forces
- ▶ Best practices guide for missing persons and murder cases including family communication

Ongoing Specific Projects include:



- ▶ Drafting fact sheets and FAQs around the issues of missing persons cases and murder cases
- ▶ Restarting the “Volunteers in Police Service” program to help utilize community volunteers in missing persons cases
- ▶ Establishing a “Justice Connect” section within the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) in the FBI CJIS databases
- ▶ Compiling ideas for legislation to solve some of the identified gaps or legal issues
- ▶ Meeting with law enforcement, victim services programs, domestic violence coalitions and others to hear about field experiences in American Indian and Alaska Native communities
- ▶ Coordinating efforts with other Federal Commissions and Task Forces including:
 - The President’s Commission on Law Enforcement
 - The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children
 - The Federal Enforcement Working Group on Combating Human Trafficking and Online Child Exploitation in the United States
 - The Attorney General’s Initiative on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Task Force Members and Director

Katharine (Katie) Sullivan

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Designee for the Attorney General*

Terry Wade

*Executive Assistant Director
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*Deputy Bureau Director
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Laura Rogers

*Acting Director
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Trent Shores

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