



"Lady Justice" used with permission from DG Smalling, Choctaw Nation

Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Operation Lady Justice

Operation Lady Justice The First Year



Executive Order 13898

On November 26, 2019, President Trump signed Executive Order 13898, forming the **Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives**



**OPERATION
LADY JUSTICE**

Executive Order 13898

Purpose: The Task Force aims to enhance the operation of the criminal justice system and address the legitimate concerns of American Indian and Alaska Native communities regarding missing and murdered people – particularly missing and murdered women and girls



OPERATION
LADY JUSTICE

Task Force Co-Chair Designees

The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior are the Task Force's co-chairs.



Katharine (Katie) Sullivan

Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Office of Justice Programs

Designee for the Attorney General



Tara Sweeney

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

Department of the Interior

Designee for the Secretary of the Interior



Task Force Members



Terry Wade

Executive Assistant Director
Criminal, Cyber, Response and Services Branch
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice



Laura Rogers

Principal Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women
Department of Justice



Task Force Members



Charles (Charlie) Addington

Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Justice Services
Department of the Interior



Trent Shores

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma
and Chair of the Native American Issues
Subcommittee of the Attorney General's Advisory
Committee, Department of Justice



Task Force Members



Jean (Jeannie) Hovland

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American
Affairs and Commissioner

Administration for Native Americans

Department of Health and Human Services



Task Force Executive Director

Marcia Good

Senior Counsel to the Director

Office of Tribal Justice

Department of Justice



OPERATION
LADY JUSTICE

Task Force Work Projects – Administration

- ▶ OLJ is 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
 - White House Council on Native American Affairs
- ▶ OLJ will be coordinating with those in charge of the requirements of recently enacted legislation “Savanna’s Act” and the “Not Invisible Act”



Task Force Work Projects – Listen and Meet: Requirements

Executive Order 13898 sets forth specific work for the Task Force to accomplish:

- ▶ “Conduct appropriate consultations with Tribal governments on the scope and nature of the issues regarding missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives”
 - ❑ The Task Force planned consultations and listening sessions in the field between March and July 2020. After discussing and working with our Tribal partners, it was determined the risks due to the COVID health emergency made field visits impractical



Task Force Work Projects – Listen and Meet: Accomplishments

Listening Sessions

- ▶ In person sessions were hosted by:
 - *NCAI's Executive Council, Winter Session, February 12 Washington, DC*
 - *HHS's ANA Grantees Meeting, February 13, Washington, DC*
 - *DOJ's Tribal Nations Leadership Council, February 25, by phone conference*
 - *HHS ACF's Tribal Advisory Committee, March 2, Washington, DC*
 - *DOI's Tribal Interior Budget Committee, March 12 , Washington, DC*
- ▶ Four virtual large-scale listening sessions, organized by BIA Region, were held on May 27, May 29, June 2 and June 3.
 - Registration for the four sessions exceeded one thousand participants
 - Transcripts of those sessions are available at <https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov/news>



Task Force Work Projects – Listen and Meet : Accomplishments

Consultations

- ▶ Tribal leaders were invited to participate in a series of 12 Virtual Tribal Consultations held via an online platform between August 17 and September 17, 2020
 - Almost one thousand Tribal leaders, designees, citizens and others registered across the twelve sessions
 - Transcripts of those sessions are available at <https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov/news>



Task Force Work Projects – Listen and Meet

Comments received during consultations/listening sessions included:

- ▶ The need for a deep dive into the root causes of missing and murdered AI/AN
- ▶ Improvement in interagency collaboration
- ▶ Full funding for Tribal law enforcement, courts, social services, domestic violence shelters, victim services programs, domestic violence and sexual assault community organizations, and search teams
- ▶ The need for publicly available data on missing persons and murder cases
- ▶ Increased state and local training on Tribal issues including enforcement of Tribal court orders of protection
- ▶ The need to establish a national alert system for adults similar to Amber Alert
- ▶ Better federal communication with families and grassroots organizations
- ▶ Tribal notification when a person goes missing
- ▶ Programs to address intervention and prevention
- ▶ Increased access to the Tribal Access Program (TAP) as well as increased availability for Amber, Ashanti and Silver Alerts in Indian communities



Task Force Work Projects – Listen and Meet : Accomplishments

Other Engagements

- ▶ Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) and ANA's Native Youth Initiative Participants
- ▶ NCAI VAWA Task Force
- ▶ Navajo Nation Briefing on Tribal MMNA Efforts
- ▶ DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) convened Tribal law enforcement leaders
- ▶ Tribal and State task forces, study groups, and other efforts at the Tribal and State levels
- ▶ FBI and BIA Victim Services Programs
- ▶ Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions



Task Force Work Projects – Listen and Meet

Action Items for 2021 include:

- ▶ Host additional consultations and listening sessions throughout 2021 in geographically diverse locations (as pandemic conditions allow) or virtually;
- ▶ Host a series of facilitated roundtables with families of missing or murdered AI/AN, utilizing victim/family support in the process;
- ▶ Host several listening sessions with Tribal grass roots organizations actively working in these areas of missing or murdered AI/AN;
- ▶ Host several virtual sessions specifically with Tribes who are actively working in these areas of missing or murdered AI/AN; and
- ▶ Host many other sessions with various stakeholders



Task Force Work Projects – Model Protocols and Procedures: Requirements

- ▶ “Develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of missing or murdered persons in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including best practices for:
 - Improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the high volume of such cases, and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases involving female victims
 - Collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies
 - Better use of existing criminal databases, such as the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) including the National DNA Index System (NDIS)”



Task Force Work Projects – Model Protocols and Procedures : Accomplishments

- ▶ The OLJ Model Protocols and Procedures Working Group worked together with the DOJ Attorney General’s Initiative on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP Initiative) to develop the protocols
- ▶ Input on the protocols and procedures was received from Tribal leadership, Tribal law enforcement executives, and many others. Based on feedback, the protocols and procedures have been developed as a guide that can be tailored to an individual tribe’s needs and desires and not a one size fits all type of approach



Task Force Work Projects – Model Protocols and Procedures : Accomplishments

- ▶ The protocols and procedures are in draft format, and include the following:
Guide for Developing a Tribal Community Response Plan for Missing Person Cases (overarching plan):
 - ❑ Guide for Developing Community Outreach Guidelines for Missing Person Cases
 - ❑ Guide for Developing Law Enforcement Agency Guidelines for Missing Person Cases
 - ❑ Guide for Developing Victim Services Guidelines for Missing Person Cases
 - ❑ Guide for Developing Public and Media Communications Guidelines for Missing Person Cases
 - ❑ Training Plans to support Tribal communities and law enforcement executing these guidelines
- ▶ These guides are being piloted in six locations through cooperation of the U.S. Attorney's Offices and Tribes



Task Force Work Projects – Model Protocols and Procedures

Action Items for 2021 include:

- ▶ Finalize the Guide for Developing a Tribal Community Response Plan, including all subcomponents after pilot project comment;
- ▶ Develop a dissemination and outreach strategy to ensure the guide reaches the field;
- ▶ Continue to work with COPS Office on the Volunteer Engagement for AI/AN Missing Persons Cases to expand its availability at the conclusion of the two pilot sessions;
- ▶ Convene all federal agencies to develop a guide for resources across all federal agencies;
- ▶ Undertake research to review commonly-cited statistics for accuracy;
- ▶ Ensure that new resources are available as part of the Education and Outreach Campaign, as applicable; and
- ▶ Develop a pilot location for establishment of an Ashanti Alert system



**OPERATION
LADY JUSTICE**

Task Force Work Projects – Cold Case Team: Requirements

- ▶ “Establish a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional team including representatives from tribal law enforcement and the Departments of Justice and the Interior to review cold cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives”



Task Force Work Projects –

Cold Case Team : Accomplishments

- ▶ In July 2020 the DOI established the first of seven teams dedicated to reviewing cold cases involving missing or murdered AI/AN
 - The Cold Case teams are staffed by newly-appointed Criminal Investigators from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS)
 - Each team may include other partners, including Tribal law enforcement and the Department of Justice
- ▶ The Cold Case Teams are located in:
 - Bloomington, MN: announced July 27
 - Rapid City, SD: announced August 4
 - Billings, MT: announced August 6
 - Nashville, TN (opening Winter 2020/21)
 - Albuquerque, NM: announced August 11
 - Phoenix, AZ: announced August 13
 - Anchorage, AK: announced August 26



Task Force Work Projects – Cold Case Team: Accomplishments

- ▶ Compiled and presented training for the new investigators and other team members on various topics, including:
 - ❑ all relevant forensic disciplines with a focus on the use of DNA including advanced methodologies;
 - ❑ available forensic resources including NamUs, the FBI lab, ViCAP, and leveraging DOJ grants (such as SAKI) to help with investigations and forensic testing; and
 - ❑ victim services including victim-centered, trauma-informed, culturally appropriate responses
- ▶ drafted standard operating procedures and protocols that govern the operation of the teams; and
- ▶ developed guidance for victim-centered, trauma-informed, culturally appropriate guidance for team members while working with families involved in cold case investigations



Task Force Work Projects – Cold Case Team

Action Items for 2021 include:

- ▶ Recruit additional members for each team, including Tribal law enforcement;
- ▶ Continue to compile and present specialized training for team members;
- ▶ Produce and disseminate forensic related briefings, checklists and best practices protocols;
- ▶ Provide advice on evidence testing strategies as needed; and
- ▶ Compile metrics of cases presented to the teams



Task Force Work Projects – Best Practices: Requirements

- ▶ “Address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction throughout the lifecycle of cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives by:
 - Developing and publishing best-practices guidance for use by Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement in cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, to include best practices related to communication with affected families from initiation of an investigation through case resolution or closure
 - Facilitating formal agreements or arrangements among Federal, State, local and tribal law enforcement to promote maximally cooperative, trauma-informed responses to cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives”



Task Force Work Projects – Best Practices: Accomplishments

- ▶ Established a JusticeConnect site on FBI CJIS LEEP for law enforcement sensitive training and sharing of knowledge and resources for missing or murdered AI/AN cases
 - Through online forums and blogs, law enforcement partners can communicate with experts, share information and ideas, and receive feedback with criminal investigations
- ▶ Training Working Group is gathering all law enforcement and non-law enforcement training that can assist with missing or murdered AI/AN cases
- ▶ This information will be placed on the OLJ website and be marketed through other outreach opportunities



Task Force Work Projects – Best Practices: Accomplishments

- ▶ Volunteer Engagement for AI/AN Missing Person Cases - the COPS Office is working with OLJ to develop a training and technical assistance project that will support Tribal police departments in managing volunteers to support missing persons cases, including:
 - A four-hour workshop geared toward Tribal leadership; and
 - An eight-hour training for Tribal law enforcement and other staff who will develop the program and manage volunteers



Task Force Work Projects – Best Practices

Action Items for 2021 include:

- ▶ Compile and provide training for law enforcement to promote maximally cooperative, trauma-informed responses to cases involving missing or murdered AI/AN;
- ▶ Work with state and local law enforcement agencies who have large AI/AN populations to discuss issues around missing or murdered AI/AN person from those locations; and
- ▶ Assist Tribal law enforcement agencies with developing formal arrangements with their Federal, state, and local law enforcement partners regarding missing or murdered AI/AN cases



Task Force Work Projects – Education and Outreach Campaigns: Requirements

- ▶ “Address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction throughout the lifecycle of cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives by:
 - Developing and executing an education and outreach campaign for communities that are most affected by crime against American Indians and Alaska Natives to identify and reduce such
 - Developing, in partnership with NamUs, a public-awareness campaign to educate both rural and urban communities about the needs of affected families and resources that are both needed and available”



Task Force Work Projects – Education and Outreach Campaigns: Accomplishments

- ▶ OLJ website was created and includes:
 - ▶ Description of the Task Force
 - ▶ Accomplishments
 - ▶ Outreach events
 - ▶ Read outs from prior sessions
 - ▶ Links to resources
- ▶ A significant section of the website contains Fact Sheets and Resources for the field, including resources for law enforcement and family/victim services
- ▶ OLJ sends regular GovDelivery emails out to approximately 1,900 subscribers on the website with updates contain significant development and activities of the Task Force



Task Force Work Projects – Education and Outreach Campaigns: Accomplishments

- ▶ An entire issue of the DOJ Journal dedicated to missing or murdered AI/AN issues will be published in January 2021
 - Approximately 25 articles with numerous federal, Tribal, and other authors will cover a wide range of topics that impact the response to these cases
- ▶ OLJ Task Force Members and support staff have worked to engage national and local media to raise awareness of OLJ with publication of Op-Eds, podcast recordings, and news articles in national and Tribal publications



Task Force Work Projects – Education and Outreach Campaigns

Action Items for 2021 include:

- ▶ Finalize and post the frequently asked questions (FAQs) that will be available on the OLJ website for the field;
- ▶ Publish the DOJ Journal;
- ▶ Develop a guidebook for families when an adult goes missing;
- ▶ Add a specific victim services page to the OLJ website;
- ▶ Create a searchable database of resources across DOJ, DOI and HHS that will assist communities identify training, funding, technical assistance and other resources;
- ▶ Identify conferences and other events to do in person or virtual education and outreach; and
- ▶ Create an “Education and Outreach Toolkit” that will highlight fact sheets and other resources using social media, public service announcements, articles, and other media



Task Force Work Projects – Reports

- ▶ “No later than one year after the date of this order, the Task Force shall develop and submit to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, a written report regarding the activities and accomplishments of the Task Force, the status of projects the Task Force has not yet completed, and specific recommendations for future action of the Task Force.”
 - Report is available on www.operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov
- ▶ “By November 26, 2021, the Task Force is charged with developing and submitting a final written report to the President regarding the activities and accomplishments of the Task Force”



Contact Operation Lady Justice



- ▶ Website: OperationLadyJustice.usdoj.gov
 - ▶ Choose “subscribe” on the website to receive email updates

- ▶ Email: OperationLadyJustice@usdoj.gov



OPERATION
LADY JUSTICE

Questions?



OLJ OPERATION
LADY JUSTICE