



Native Women's Association of Canada

Press Release --- For Immediate Release

Take Action: Host a Sisters In Spirit Vigil On October 4th

Ottawa, ON (September 2, 2010) -- Aboriginal women and girls are facing the most pervasive human rights crisis in Canada today. In effort to address the issue, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is encouraging Canadians to take action by hosting a Sisters In Spirit Vigil on October 4th 2010.

NWAC and its national partners KAIROS, Amnesty International, the Canadian Federation of Students, National Association of Friendship Centers and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers are working together to organize the fifth annual Sisters In Spirit vigils on October 4th.

The vigils will be organized in communities across Canada to honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. Over the last five years, Sisters In Spirit vigils have evolved into a movement for social change. With 11 communities coming together in 2006, the annual SIS vigils have grown to 72 across Canada in 2010. In 2010 we hope to reach new communities and grow this movement to new heights.

As the Native Women's Association of Canada's president Jeannette Corbiere Lavell says, "NWAC is pleased the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women is starting to resonate with all Canadians; however, much more still needs to be done. By hosting or attending a vigil in your community, you can honour the lives of Aboriginal women and girls we have lost to violence and you can help us continue to raise awareness, and mobilize for change."

While the government has taken the positive step to address violence against Aboriginal women by investing ten million dollars over a period of two years, there has yet to be an announcement for how these funds will be allocated. The fact is, in 2010 Aboriginal women continue to face severe forms of violence no matter where they live in Canada and 40 per cent of homicide cases of Aboriginal women remain unsolved. With this disproportionate reality upon us we call on all levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal), to take concrete actions by elevating the social status of Aboriginal women and girls.

For more information or to learn how to host a SIS Vigil in your own community please visit one of the following links:

<http://www.nwac.ca/2010-sisters-spirit-vigils>

SIS Vigils Facebook page

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