

MMIP:

A STORYTELLING
INITIATIVE



VOL. 1
MAY 5TH 2022

The background of the entire page is a dense field of small, bright pink flowers. Overlaid on this are white, stylized tree branches that branch out in various directions, creating a delicate, lace-like pattern.

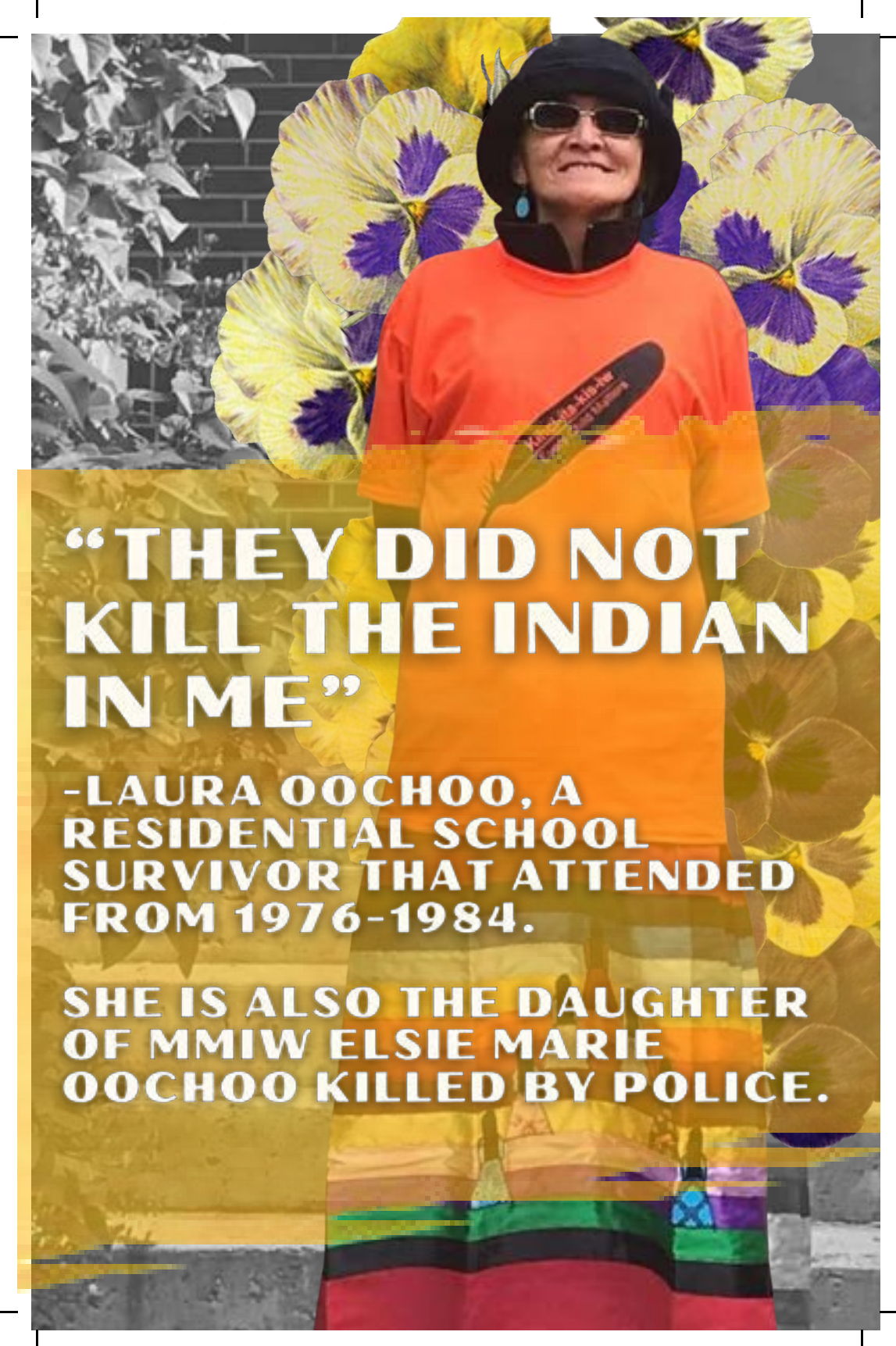
Trigger Warning Content Warning

Please proceed
with caution as this
zine has images
and content that
covers many
complex areas
within the Missing
and Murdered
Indigenous
Peoples.



Genocide

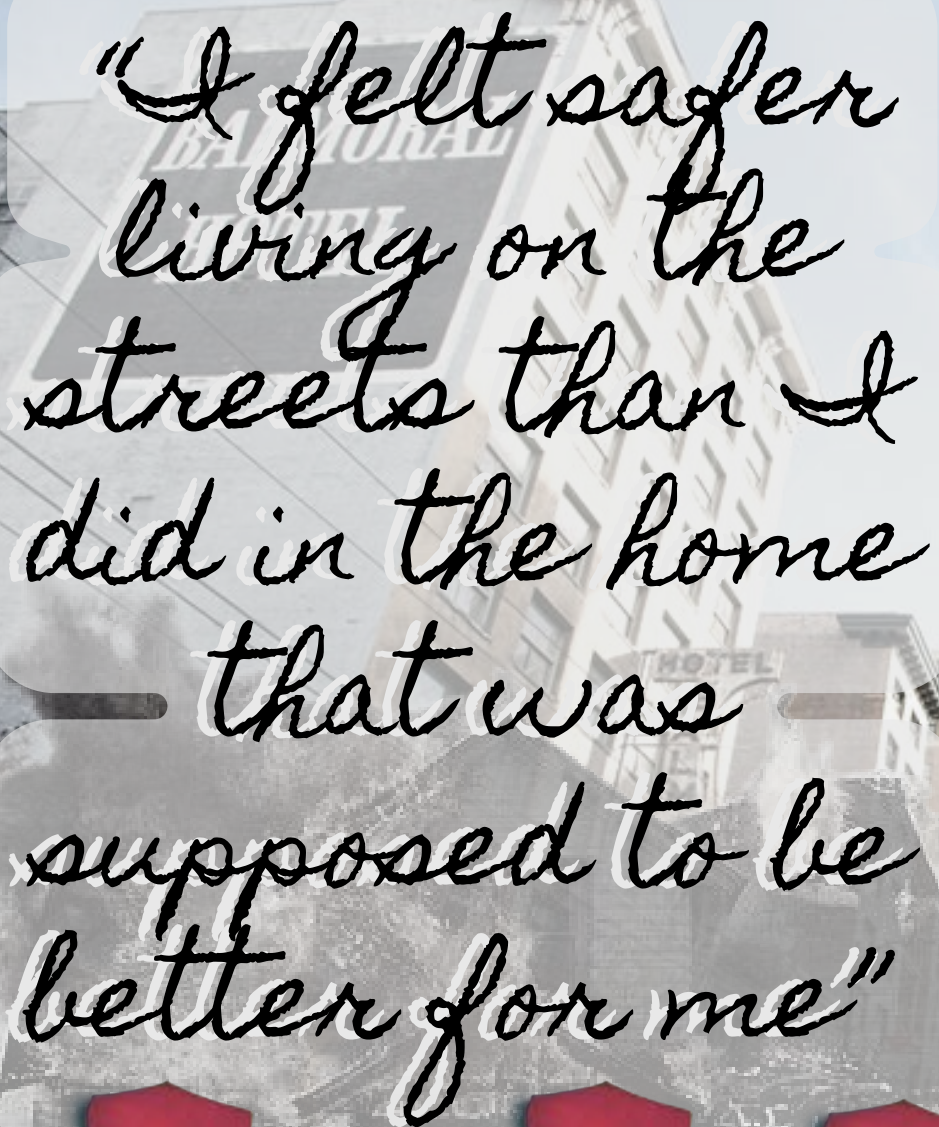
Genocide is not just the immediate destruction of a nation. Polish Jewish scholar Raphael Lemkin sees genocide as a more insidious force, "a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves." Power and Place, The final report of Canada's inquiry into MMIWG.



**“THEY DID NOT
KILL THE INDIAN
IN ME”**

**-LAURA OOCHOO, A
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
SURVIVOR THAT ATTENDED
FROM 1976-1984.**

**SHE IS ALSO THE DAUGHTER
OF MMIW ELSIE MARIE
OOCHOO KILLED BY POLICE.**



"I felt safer
living on the
streets than I
did in the home
that was
supposed to be
better for me"

- MONA WOODWARD
SIXTIES SCOOP SURVIVOR,
FOUNDING MATRIARCH OF
WOMENS MEMORIAL MARCH



DEHUMANIZATION VIA MEDIA

Although thousands of Indigenous People have gone missing or have been murdered, media attention to this violence has been grossly underreported and misrepresented.

Media silence sends a message that our stories are not “newsworthy” and that we do not matter. Inaccurate misrepresentations like mascots, halloween costumes and Pocahontas are dehumanizing racist stereotypes that serve as the foundation of the violence perpetrated on Indigenous Peoples.



GIRLS DON'T HITCHHIKE

GIRLS DON'T HITCHHIKE
on the

Highway of Tears



Killer on the Loose!

"Victims"

Delphine Tamara



725 km of highway in British Columbia that borders twenty-three First Nations reserves.

Indigenous communities estimate that more than 40 indigenous women and girls have gone missing or have been found murdered along The Highway of Tears.



**LAND VIOLENCE =
BODY VIOLENCE.
TO HONOR AND
PROTECT THE
LAND IS TO
HONOR AND
PROTECT OUR
WOMEN.**

It's Because of the Starlight Tours

I don't trust you

I don't trust cops,

I don't trust the RCMP

I don't trust law enforcement

**It's not because you took my grandparents from their
parents to Residential School**

**It's not because you took me and my sisters and brother
from a safe loving homes to white foster homes**

**It's not because I was beaten and released and never
charged at 17**

It's not because my brother was found dead in the cells

Its because my sister was found in the field,

It's because she was taken outside Calgary and left to die

It's because she was taken out on that remote rural road

It's because she was taken on the coldest night of the year

It's because the snow tells the story of her walk of death

The newly fallen snow told that story

**The car tracks pulling in, the scuffle marks in the snow of
her being dragged from the car**

Then the car tracks driving away

The snow showed her walk, and fall, walk and fall, and

walk and fall

her final fall

**It's because you destroyed all her files, including the death
investigation**

**It's because you changed the name of formal reports- like
she didn't even exist**

she died alone and cold and afraid

and you hid it, you changed it, to cover something up

I don't trust cops

I don't trust the RCMP

I don't trust Law Enforcement

She died alone, cold and afraid.

**In honor, love and and memory of
Eleanor "Laney" Ewenin
By Danielle Ewenin**

Two Spirit

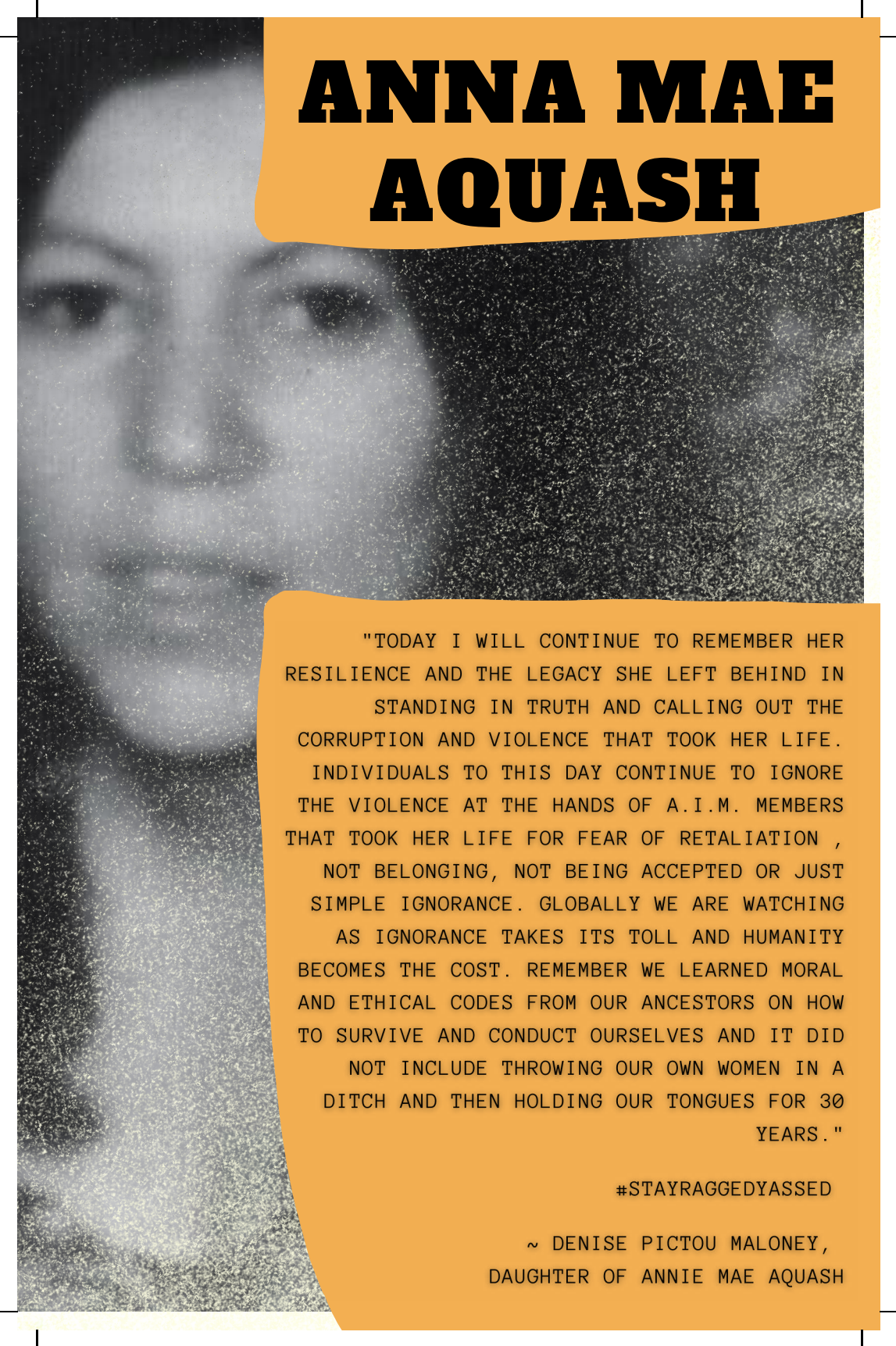
Before colonization Indigenous Nations had a distinct understanding of gender roles and sexuality, that understanding has been heavily disrupted, so Two-spirit relatives face a lot of discrimination from mainstream society and their communities. Native LGBTQ+ and two-spirit folks are disproportionately impacted by violence.

Being marginalized decreases the availability and accessibility of support services. If we continue not to be inclusive, we are participating in causing further harm to our relatives. We can not stand for our relatives to be erased.



We'wha. (: John K. Hillers, Image Courtesy of:

Smithsonian Institute)



ANNA MAE AQUASH

"TODAY I WILL CONTINUE TO REMEMBER HER RESILIENCE AND THE LEGACY SHE LEFT BEHIND IN STANDING IN TRUTH AND CALLING OUT THE CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE THAT TOOK HER LIFE. INDIVIDUALS TO THIS DAY CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE VIOLENCE AT THE HANDS OF A.I.M. MEMBERS THAT TOOK HER LIFE FOR FEAR OF RETALIATION , NOT BELONGING, NOT BEING ACCEPTED OR JUST SIMPLE IGNORANCE. GLOBALLY WE ARE WATCHING AS IGNORANCE TAKES ITS TOLL AND HUMANITY BECOMES THE COST. REMEMBER WE LEARNED MORAL AND ETHICAL CODES FROM OUR ANCESTORS ON HOW TO SURVIVE AND CONDUCT OURSELVES AND IT DID NOT INCLUDE THROWING OUR OWN WOMEN IN A DITCH AND THEN HOLDING OUR TONGUES FOR 30 YEARS."

#STAYRAGGEDYASSED

~ DENISE PICTOU MALONEY,
DAUGHTER OF ANNIE MAE AQUASH

I MISSED YOU TODAY

I MISSED YOU TODAY BUT THAT'S NOTHING NEW, I MISSED YOU A MILLION TIMES YESTERDAY TOO.

I PICKED UP MY PHONE TO TELL YOU THE NEWS, THEN REALIZED, AGAIN, I CAN'T TEXT IT TO YOU.

I SAW YOUR BRIGHT SMILE, AT LEAST TWENTY TIMES, AND THEN I REMEMBER, IT'S ALL IN MY MIND.

I DRIVE WITHOUT PRESENCE, THE WORLD FEELS SURREAL, AND ON COMES YOUR SONG AND THIS DOESN'T SEEM REAL.

I MISSED YOU TODAY BUT I MISS YOU A LOT, IT'S HELPFUL TO MISS YOU, IT'S ALL THAT I'VE GOT.

I WISH I COULD PULL YOU DOWN HERE FOR A WHILE I'M FRIGHTENED TO LOSE THE SHAPE OF YOUR SMILE.

I MISS YOU TODAY AND I'LL MISS YOU TOMORROW, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO COMING END TO THIS SORROW.

I TRY TO GO ON AS I KNOW THAT YOU CARE, I KNOW THAT YOU'RE WILLING ME ON FROM UP THERE.

I MISS YOU TODAY, I MISS YOU EVERYDAY.

POEM BY STEPHANIE SEYMOUR

"THE SILENCE KILLS US DAY BY DAY BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP ASHLEYS NAME OUT THERE."

-JANINE MORIN, SISTER OF ASHLEY MORIN MISSING SINCE 7/10/2018





MISSING WHITE WOMEN

“It’s not lost on me that Petito was white, young, and popular on social media. Her name was hashtagged nearly 74 million times (meanwhile, it’s been 923 days since a Shoshone-Bannock Tribal member went missing in the same area). No one should be surprised that Petito’s story gained traction on social media. The vibrant, white, young social media influencer trope is ingrained into our collective consciousness. The news media lit and then fanned the flames of the story by running a stream of almost by-the-minute updates about her disappearance. Her body was found in less than two weeks, because we live in a society that places white women’s victimization above everyone else’s (remember: 923 days missing). White women are protected at all costs.” ~ Tai Simpson



WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PERPETRATORS?

Many perpetrators are given light punishments, this can be due to a lack of resources, a lack of trust in the judicial system by MMIP families, confusion about jurisdiction or because of harmful stereotypes about Indigenous people that lead to biased decisions by judges and prosecutors.

“Not only is the prevalence of murdered Indigenous women disproportionately high, the rate of charges against the perpetrators in these crimes is about 30% lower than it is for non-Indigenous victims.”

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/theballisinyourcourt/chapter/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw-in-canada>

VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN & BOYS

"1 IN 4 AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME. MORE THAN 475, 000 AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME. THIS DATA IS NOT ACCURATE DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF MALE VICTIMS WHO DO NOT REPORT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. WE ARE 20 YEARS BEHIND IN PROVIDING SERVICES FOR MALES WHO EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. WE NEED TO BREAK THE STIGMA SO OUR MEN CAN HEAL."

LENNY HAYES

-SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE





INNER FAMILY VIOLENCE

"I DON'T THINK THERE IS ENOUGH DISCUSSION ABOUT THE VIOLENCE WE PERPETUATE ON EACH OTHER THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE MMIP EPIDEMIC. I HONESTLY FEEL AS THOUGH MY COUSIN MAY STILL BE HERE AND MY OTHER COUSIN MAY NOT BE SPENDING THEIR LIFE IN JAIL IF IT WASN'T FOR THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, ALONG WITH DEGRADATION THAT HAS IMPACTED OUR COMMUNITIES DUE TO COLONIZATION. I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD CARRY THE NAME OF MMIP FAMILY MEMBER, AS I'M SURE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE LOT THEIR FAMILY TO INNER FAMILY VIOLENCE FEEL WE SHOULD BE SEEN TOO, ALL NATIVES DESERVE ADVOCACY AND HEALING FROM THIS LOSS."



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE ARE
OVERREPRESENTED
WHEN IT
COMES TO
VICTIMS AND
SURVIVORS OF
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING. IT IS
DIFFICULT TO
TRACK AN EXACT
NUMBER AS
MANY VICTIMS
EITHER DON'T
COME FORWARD
OR DON'T REALIZE
THEY ARE
SURVIVORS OF
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING.**

A close-up photograph of purple flowers, likely asters, with green stems and leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing vibrant purple petals and others as buds. The background is softly blurred, showing more greenery and light. The text is overlaid on a dark purple semi-transparent background.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAFETY

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN
MMIP FAMILY MEMBER TO
HAVE COMPASSION, YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE AN ADVOCATE TO
TAKE ACTION, YOU DON'T HAVE
TO BE INDIGENOUS TO SHOW
SOLIDARITY, YOU JUST HAVE TO
BE HUMAN. INDIGENOUS
RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.
THE HUMAN IN EACH OF US
MEANS WE ARE CAPABLE OF
RECOGNIZING THE SUFFERINGS
AND INJUSTICES OF PEOPLE
AND THE PLANET WORLDWIDE.
MMIP FAMILIES SHOULD NOT
JUST SURVIVE BUT SHOULD
FEEL EMPOWERED TO A PLACE
OF THRIVING IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES.**



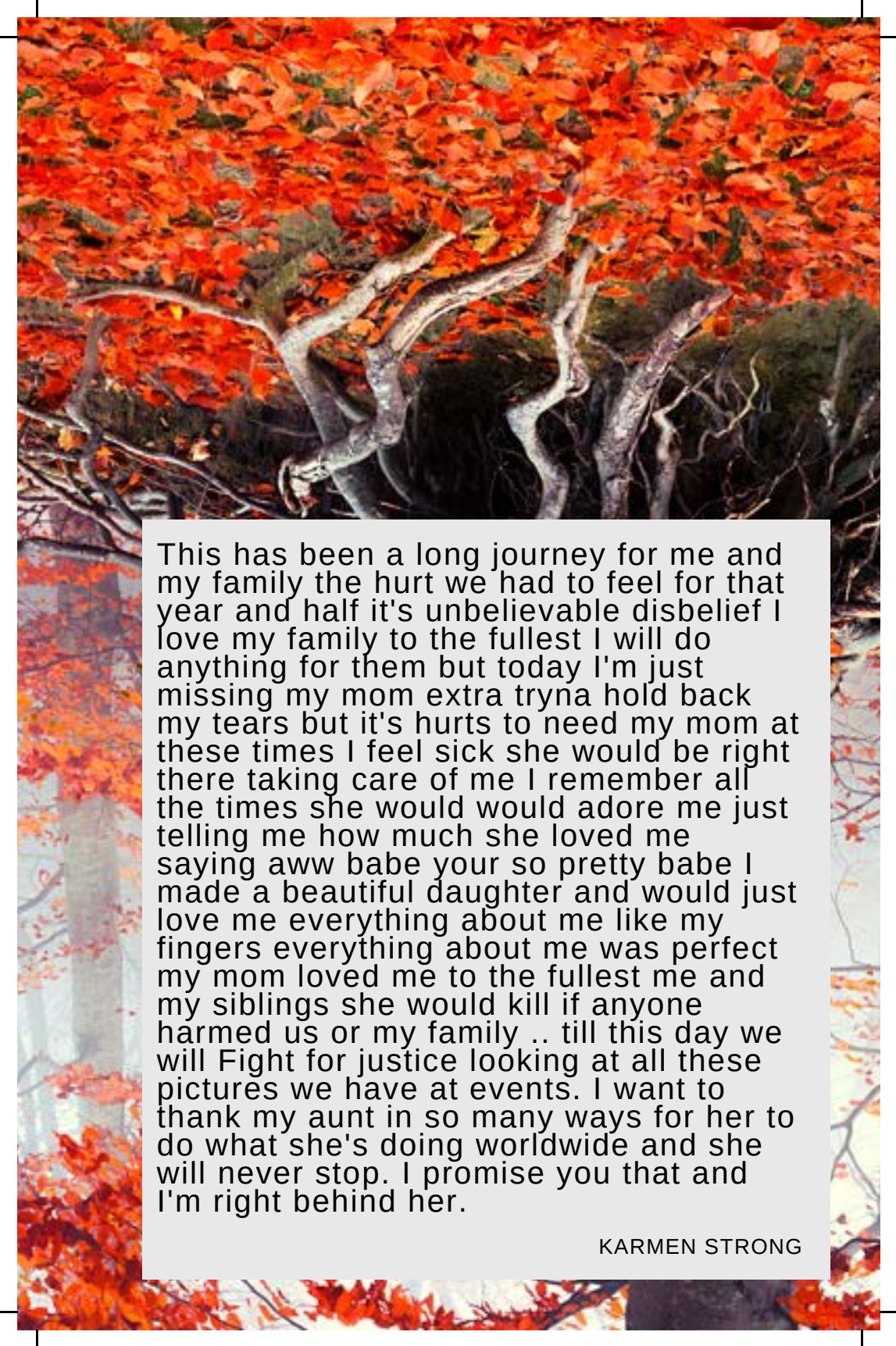
JUSTICE IS HEALING, THERE IS A JUSTICE IN OUR HEARTS" - LAURA OOCCHOO

**MMIP FAMILIES HAVE A
RIGHT TO JUSTICE**

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US



"FAMILIES OF MMIP ARE THE EXPERTS AND THEY DESERVE TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES WHENEVER POSSIBLE. WHILE THE APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORT OF THE COMMUNITY IS NEEDED AND REQUIRED FOR JUSTICE FOR OUR LOVED ONES, IT IS AN EFFORT AND A MOVEMENT THAT MUST BE FAMILY-LED. THAT WAY IT IS AUTHENTIC AND REDUCES OR ELIMINATES 'EGO' FROM THE PROCESS. THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE FAMILY ON HEALING, ACTION, AND ORGANIZING IS ESSENTIAL AND THE EXPERIENCE OF FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THEIR SEARCH FOR JUSTICE WILL BE EMPOWERING AND HEALING. FAMILIES FIRST. NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US." ~ DANIELLE EWENIN



This has been a long journey for me and my family the hurt we had to feel for that year and half it's unbelievable disbelief I love my family to the fullest I will do anything for them but today I'm just missing my mom extra tryna hold back my tears but it's hurts to need my mom at these times I feel sick she would be right there taking care of me I remember all the times she would would adore me just telling me how much she loved me saying aww babe your so pretty babe I made a beautiful daughter and would just love me everything about me like my fingers everything about me was perfect my mom loved me to the fullest me and my siblings she would kill if anyone harmed us or my family .. till this day we will Fight for justice looking at all these pictures we have at events. I want to thank my aunt in so many ways for her to do what she's doing worldwide and she will never stop. I promise you that and I'm right behind her.

KARMEN STRONG

RESOURCES

CANADA:

**Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs
emotional support helpline:
1-844-413-6649**

USA:

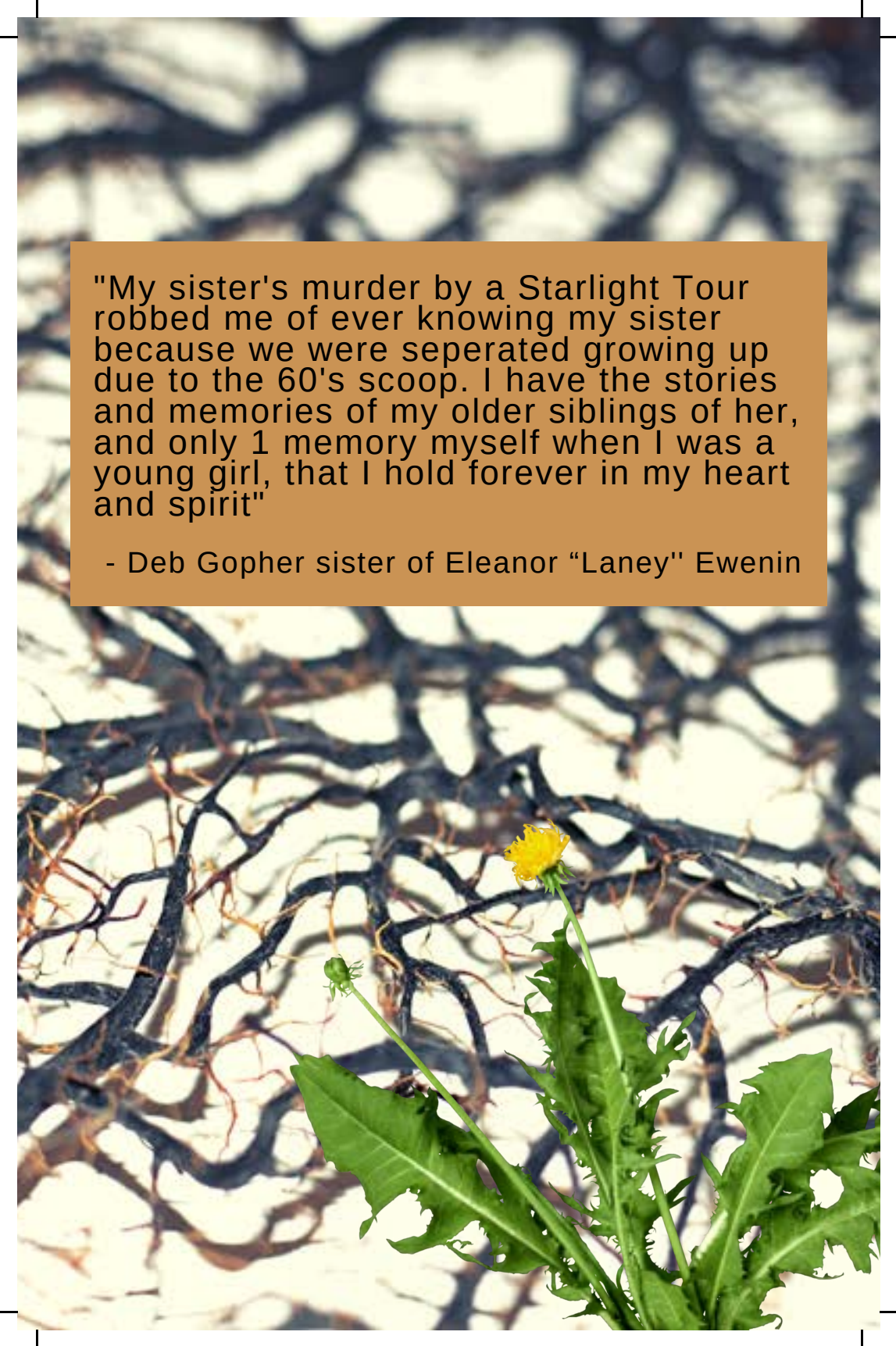
**Sovereign Bodies Institute
NIWRC**

**Strong Hearts Native Helpline:
1-844-762-8483**

**Sahnish Scouts of North Dakota
MMIP.families**

THIS ZINE IS DEDICATED TO:

***The families of Missing & Murdered
Indigenous People***



"My sister's murder by a Starlight Tour robbed me of ever knowing my sister because we were seperated growing up due to the 60's scoop. I have the stories and memories of my older siblings of her, and only 1 memory myself when I was a young girl, that I hold forever in my heart and spirit"

- Deb Gopher sister of Eleanor "Laney" Ewenin

WEBSITE:
SEEDINGSOVEREIGNTY.ORG/MMIP

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FACEBOOK:
SEEDINGSOVEREIGNTY

CONTACT:
AGNES@SEEDINGSOVEREIGNTY.ORG

