



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Native Peoples Action, Inc.**

(907) 917-0854

PO Box 210914

Anchorage, AK 99521-0914

[info@nativepeoplesaction.org](mailto:info@nativepeoplesaction.org)

[www.nativepeoplesaction.org](http://www.nativepeoplesaction.org)

## **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Community Gathering and Heartbeat of the Drums Ceremony**

*Community organized event to stop the violence, end the silence*

Anchorage, AK – Native Peoples Action, Native Movement, the Alaska Center, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Southcentral Foundation, Alaska Native dance groups and the community of Anchorage come together in honor and remembrance of our beloved missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Community Gathering and Heartbeat of the Drums will take place this Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Alaska Native Heritage Center from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. This event is open to all, free admission.

This community-sponsored event is organized in light of the National day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls, a national movement to help raise awareness of the alarming crisis happening throughout the United States and Canada. There will be Alaska Native dance and drum groups: Sam Johns, Rodney McCord, and Arthur Stevens (Athabaskan), Lepquim Gumilgit Gagoadim (Ts'msyen) and Acilquq (Yup'ik), moose and seal soup with fry bread, MMIWG speakers, statistics shared, specific call-to-actions in legislation and beyond, situational awareness information shared by the Anchorage Police Department, and a learning circle as a space for sharing story and healing sponsored by Southcentral Foundation's Family Wellness Warriors Initiative. The Heartbeat of the Drums healing ceremony invites all drummers to attend and drum together in remembrance of those whose hearts will never be forgotten. In closing, we will have a community healing smudge and prayer.

For more information, see Facebook event [here](#).

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### **Media Contact:**

Communications Director

Kelsey Ciugun Wallace

907.799.6149 | [kelsey@nativepeoplesaction.org](mailto:kelsey@nativepeoplesaction.org)

### **Native Peoples Action, Inc.**

is an Alaska Native non-profit organization. We strive to provide Alaska Native peoples, communities, and our traditional values with a voice at all levels of policy making.