Safety for Our Sisters: Ending Violence Against Native Women

March 21 • 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
RASMUSON THEATER • WASHINGTON, DC

Marking Women’s History Month, this symposium draws attention to the pervasive issue of violence against Native women, who suffer disproportionately high levels of rape, domestic violence, and attacks. By shining a broad light on a grim and painful issue, Safety for Our Sisters aims to educate all about the social and legal issues involved as well as how to end this epidemic of violence. Representative Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) of New Mexico, one of the first Native women elected to the U.S. Congress, has stated, “Right now, the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women across this country is great. We need to find solutions.”

Live webcast: AmericanIndian.si.edu-multimedia/webcasts

PROGRAM

2:00 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Sari Horwitz, The Washington Post
The Honorable Deb Haaland, Member of Congress (video welcome)

2:15 p.m. Historical Resilience: The Story of Violence Against Native Women
Sarah Deer, University of Kansas

2:45 p.m. Sovereignty: Of Our Nations, in the Law, and Over Our Bodies
Mary Kathryn Nagle, Pipestem Law, P.C.

3:15 p.m. Dancing Myself Home
Jaime Black, Artist

3:45 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. More than Seven Times for the Next Seven Generations
Cherrah Giles, National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center

4:30 p.m. Save Our Sisters, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Marita Growing Thunder, Student, University of Montana

5:00 p.m. Discussion with Our Speakers
Moderator: Sari Horwitz, The Washington Post

5:30 p.m. Symposium Concludes
Students attending a high school art workshop in Winnipeg, Canada, wrote this poignant message on a ribbon to missing and murdered Indigenous women.

PHOTO BY JAIME BLACK

The symposium received support from the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative.