



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MINNESOTA RECOGNIZES MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN**

Saint Paul, MN – As a recent bill was proposed to the Minnesota Legislature to establish a taskforce to investigate missing and murdered indigenous women, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women recognizes the domestic violence homicide of Gennie Marie Kingbird. The Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women’s March (led by Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition, Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center, Indigenous Women’s Life Net, and Native Lives Matter) took place in Minneapolis on February 14, to honor the lives lost and those still missing. Gennie Marie Kingbird is the second confirmed domestic violence homicide of the year.

Gennie Marie Kingbird, 41, died in the hospital in Red Lake on January 6. Earlier that day, Gennie’s husband, Jeremiah Kingbird, contacted police and led them to an unconscious Gennie on a back road near Ponemah. Jeremiah stated he was intoxicated the night before and beat up Gennie and left her on the road. She died not long after this at the hospital. Gennie Marie Kingbird is survived by her five children. Jeremiah Kingbird is currently in federal custody.

“Crimes against native women are not heavily reported,” said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. “We often have to rely on information gathered from local communities when a tragedy like this occurs. Because of this and the federal jurisdiction involved in Gennie’s case, we were not able to recognize her homicide until more than a month after it happened.”

If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 or StrongHearts Native Helpline at 844-762-8483.

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