



CALL FOR PAPERS

Demeter Press

is seeking submissions (narrative and scholarly)
for an edited collection about

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Editors: Dr. D. Memee Lavell-Harvard and Jennifer Brant

Deadline for Abstracts: May 15, 2015

In October 2004 Amnesty International released a report titled *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to the Discrimination and Violence against Indigenous Women in Canada*, in response to the appalling number of Indigenous women who are victims of racialized and sexualized violence. This report noted over 500 missing or murdered Indigenous women. Tragically, since this initial report the numbers have risen. Noting that Indigenous women are eight times more likely to die as a result of violence, the most recent RCMP report documented 1181 missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls (2013), with more distressing cases being reported every month. After conducting an extensive investigation here in Canada, in March of 2015 the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued their report condemning Canada for the ongoing failure to protect Indigenous women and girls calling it a “grave human rights violation” (UNCEDAW).

Over 40 separate reports have outlined the increase in racialized and sexualized violence against Indigenous women, yet the recommendations they contain are ignored. While these reports educate the Canadian public on the extent of the problem, the reality of violence is all too familiar and resonates within the hearts of Indigenous communities. This is not just an Aboriginal problem, or a women’s issue, it is a national shame. The stories of our stolen sisters deeply affect the lives of all Indigenous peoples in Canada. These are the voices of our sisters, mothers, daughters, aunts and grandmothers. We hear and read about our missing sisters in the venues that connect us across Turtle Island. At almost every Indigenous conference we attend there is yet another moment of silence. Our intent is to honour those missing sisters and their families, to honour their lives and their stories so they are no longer remembered as just another sad statistic, or worse yet “just another Indian.”

The failure of the government to respond to this issue has resulted in a national grassroots movement to call for a national inquiry. This collection supports the call for immediate response and action.

Topics can include (but are not limited to):

Scholarly or creative works, personal narratives, memoirs, poetry, art, related to violence against Indigenous women in Canada. Colonial violence, domestic abuse, the intersection of domestic violence and reproductive justice, law enforcement responses and reporting, over-policing and the criminalization of Indigenous women, crises intervention, media coverage and response on missing Indigenous women, social awareness and media campaigns, social activism, grassroots initiatives, community grief, loss and healing, intergenerational trauma and grief, experiences of families and children associated with violence against Indigenous women, cultural strength, resilience, and empowerment.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be approximately 250-500 words. Please also include a brief biography (50 words).

Please send to mharvard@sympatico.ca and jbrant@brocku.ca

Deadline for abstracts is May 15, 2015

Full chapters of 4,000-5,000 words (15-20 pages) due September 1, 2015 and should conform to MLA citation format.

Note: all full chapters submitted will be included subject to review

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