

**#NO MORE  
STOLEN  
SISTERS**



## ***Highway of Tears*** discussion guide

Thank you for hosting a screen of the documentary film *Highway of Tears*. Amnesty International is bringing people together to screen this film, discuss it, and take action to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. To borrow a copy of the film, contact [materials@amnesty.ca](mailto:materials@amnesty.ca). For information about Amnesty International's No More Stolen Sisters campaign to end violence against Indigenous women and girls visit [www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters](http://www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters).

### ***Introducing the film***

*Highway of Tears* is a documentary film about loss, courage and hope. It tells the story of some of the women and girls—most of them Indigenous—who have gone missing along Highway 16 in northern British Columbia. So many lives have been lost on this stretch of highway that it has come to be known as the Highway of Tears.

But this film is about much more than loss. It is also about the courage of the families and communities who continue to search for their loved ones who have not returned home. And it is about communities hoping for a better future—where Indigenous women and girls do not go missing and are not murdered—and who tirelessly work to make this vision of the future a reality.

*Highway of Tears* is about a pattern of disappearances and murders near the highway that stretches from Prince George to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, but the story it tells is repeated across Canada. If you are an Indigenous woman or girl in Canada—whether you live on reserve or in an urban area, regardless of your age or socio-economic status—the simple fact that you are an Indigenous woman or girl means that you are at least 3 times more likely to experience violence, and at least 6 times more likely to be murdered than any other woman or girl in Canada. Why? Because of the many legacies of colonialism that increase the risks to Indigenous women and girls vulnerable to violence—from impoverishment to the lasting harm from residential schools to the disempowerment of Indigenous women in their own communities. Because of the racist and sexist stereotypes that lead perpetrators to believe that they can get away with committing acts of violence. And because of decades of government and law enforcement inaction to end the violence.

In the film you will see several different sets of statistics for how many Indigenous

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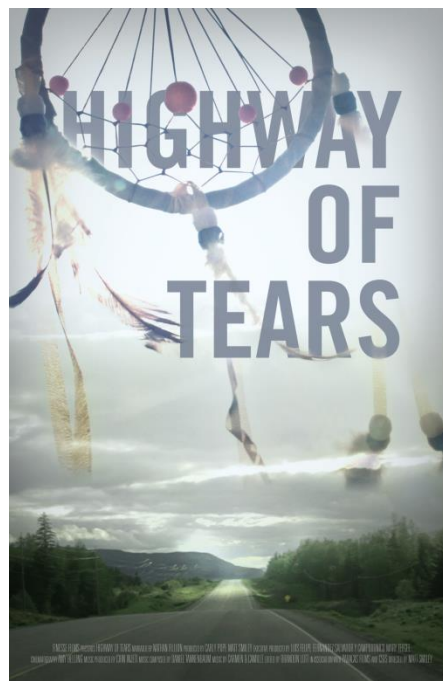


women and girls have gone missing or been murdered. No one knows exactly how many Indigenous sisters have been stolen because no one has been consistently counting. The RCMP figure of 1,200 represents the first official effort at the federal level to determine the numbers, and Amnesty International believes the true number is likely far higher.

We hope this film will inform and inspire you to join the Indigenous women, families, and communities working to end the violence—some of whom are profiled in this film—and we look forward to a rich discussion afterwards.

***Questions to ask audience members after watching the film***

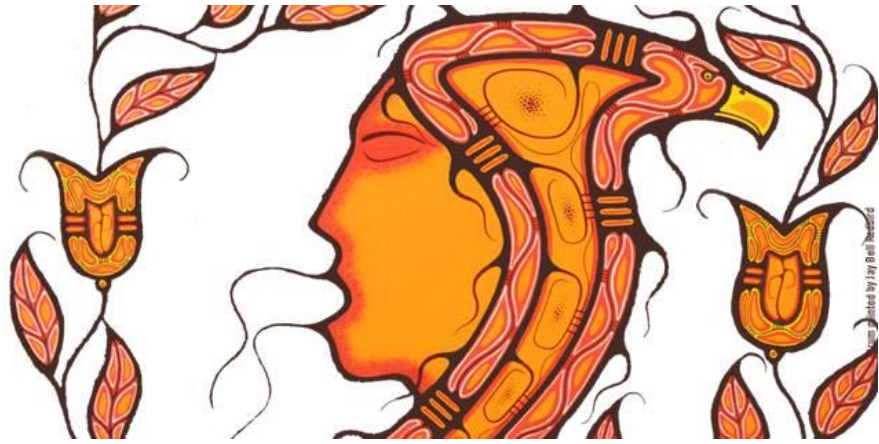
- In the film, Indigenous women spoke of their feeling of insecurity simply because they are Indigenous women. What would your life be like if you constantly lived in a state of fear for yourself or a loved one?
- Indigenous women and girls have gone missing and been murdered across Canada—not only along the Highway of Tears. Many more continue to experience violence. Have Indigenous women and girls in your community gone missing? What local organizations or activists are taking action to end violence against Indigenous women and girls?
- Film narrator Nathan Fillion said “The Highway of Tears isn’t just about a number—it’s about humanity, and it’s about erasing our history with discrimination and forging a new future with impartial eyes.” What actions can you take to help forge this new future?



***Taking action***

- Over a decade ago, Amnesty International joined Indigenous women, families, and communities in calling for an end to violence against Indigenous women and girls. The No More Stolen Sisters campaign continues to raise awareness about the pervasiveness of the violence and calls for action by all levels of government to be part of a comprehensive national plan of action end the violence.
- Amnesty International has stood with affected families in calling for a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. In

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November 2015, the federal government announced it will launch a public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Throughout the inquiry process it is important to send a message to Indigenous women and families that people across this country—Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike—are standing in solidarity with them.

- Learn more about the No More Stolen Sisters campaign at [www.amnesty.ca/StolenSisters](http://www.amnesty.ca/StolenSisters).
- Add your voice to Amnesty International's call to stand with women and families during the public inquiry at [bit.do/istand](http://bit.do/istand) or collect signatures on the hard copy of this action (<http://www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/petition-library>)
- For more information visit [www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters](http://www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters)