MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF COMPONENTS
FROM: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
SUBJECT: Steering Committee to Address the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons

The Department of Justice is committed to addressing the persistent violence endured by Native American families and communities across the country, including by working with Tribal nations to address the important issues of missing or murdered indigenous persons. The Department views this work as a priority for its law enforcement components. It also recognizes the broader public safety and public health concerns that underlie many of these cases and require solutions from across the Department’s components.

For that reason, I am launching a Steering Committee to coordinate the Department’s efforts to address the issues of missing or murdered indigenous persons. The Steering Committee shall review the Department’s current guidance, policies, and practices in these areas and recommend any changes necessary to better facilitate this work, including in response to the recommendations set forth in the U.S. Government Accountability Office’s report titled, “Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women: New Efforts Are Underway but Opportunities Exist to Improve the Federal Response.” Consistent with the Executive Order titled “Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People,” I am also directing the Steering Committee, in coordination with other agencies as appropriate, to develop a comprehensive plan to strengthen the Department’s work to address the issues of missing or murdered indigenous persons that will be submitted to the President within 240 days.

The Steering Committee’s plan should reflect the Department’s holistic approach to addressing these important issues. First, it should evaluate and build off existing efforts to develop a coordinated federal law enforcement response for cases falling within federal jurisdiction, including strategies for supporting victims and their loved ones. Second, it should include a strategy for enhancing coordination with and support for our Tribal, state, and local partners, who are often on the frontlines for these cases. Third, consistent with the findings and recommendations in the GAO report, the Steering Committee should build on the Department’s efforts to improve data collection, data access and sharing, and education and outreach about federal databases, as well as develop a strategy for conducting ongoing analyses of existing
Memorandum from the Deputy Attorney General

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The Department is committed to tackling the issues of missing or murdered indigenous persons in a way that will make a meaningful—and long-term—difference. I look forward to reviewing the Steering Committee’s plan and recommendations and to sharing them with the Attorney General for his ultimate approval.