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**PAUKTUUTIT**  
**INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA**

# Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+)

## KEY MESSAGES:

Centering Inuit women in the response to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+).

- **Inuit Women must lead.** Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit are the experts on their own experiences and must have the authority to shape and lead all aspects of the response to MMIWG2S+ – not as token voices, but as decision-makers.
- **Equity is not optional – it’s a necessity.** Any governmental response to MMIWG2S+ and gender-based violence must guarantee meaningful leadership roles and decision-making power for Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit. Equitable representation must be built in from the start.
- **Inuit-specific approaches are essential.** All responses to the [Inuit Action Plan on MMIWG](#)<sup>1</sup> must incorporate an Inuit-specific Gender Based Analysis+ (ISGBA+) lens, uphold Inuit women’s rights, ensure the equitable representation of Inuit women’s leadership and governance, increase capacity, and include Inuit in urban areas.
- **Accountability must be real and transparent.** Clear mechanisms must be established to track implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice from the [Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people](#),<sup>2</sup> with regular and publicly accessible progress reporting.
- **This crisis is ongoing.** All levels of government must respond to MMIWG2S+ as a present and ongoing crisis. Resources must be directed toward prevention and immediate action, alongside meaningful, culturally grounded commemoration activities.

<sup>1</sup> Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2021). National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. Retrieved from <https://itk.ca/mmiwg-inuit-action-plan/>

<sup>2</sup> National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Retrieved from [https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final\\_Report\\_Vol\\_1b.pdf](https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1b.pdf)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The 2019 Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people called on all governments – federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous – the private sector, service providers, civil society, and all Canadians to work together to address the underlying issues highlighted in the 231 Calls for Justice. Of the Calls for Justice, 46 are Inuit-specific and 184 fall within shared federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdiction. All Calls prioritize partnership with Indigenous people.<sup>3</sup>
- On June 3, 2021, Indigenous partners and the federal, provincial and territorial governments released the Indigenous-led 2021 [National Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#).<sup>4</sup> This included the [Federal Pathway](#),<sup>5</sup> plans by various Indigenous distinctions and communities, provincial/territorial plans, and a joint statement signed by all provinces and territories that identified where future collaborative action may be needed within each jurisdiction.
- In June 2021, **Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada** and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) released the [National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#)<sup>6</sup> in response to the 46 Inuit-specific Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).
- The National Inuit Action Plan addresses the underlying factors that we know contribute to the high prevalence of violence experienced by too many Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit. These factors include limited access to shelters and other safe spaces, housing shortages in Inuit communities, and limited access to health and wellness services and supports.
- Actions in the Plan are organized into 14 themes that include shelters and housing, justice and policing, health and wellness, and economic security. Actions are further broken down into federal, provincial/territorial, and Inuit-led actions.
- As articulated by former Pauktuutit President Rebecca Kudloo, while everyone is part of the solution, the work must begin and end with Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit. They are experts on MMIWG2S+ and must have autonomy in determining the solutions and actions taken to ensure the safety and well-being of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit: “If we are to end the tragedy of gendered violence, Inuit women must be at the forefront of implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan for Inuit. This is not a preference – it’s an imperative – consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the recommendations of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Retrieved from [https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final\\_Report\\_Vol\\_1b.pdf](https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1b.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan. (2021). Retrieved from: <https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/eng/1670511213459/1670511226843>

<sup>5</sup> The Government of Canada. (2023). The Federal Pathway. Retrieved from <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1617731561423/1617731691291>

<sup>6</sup> Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2021). National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. Retrieved from <https://itk.ca/mmiwg-inuit-action-plan/>.

<sup>7</sup> Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2021). National Inuit Action Plan on MMIWG a Roadmap for Preventing Violence Against Inuit Women, Girls & Gender-Diverse Persons. Retrieved from: <https://pauktuutit.ca/news-post/national-inuit-action-plan-on-mmiwg-a-roadmap-for-preventing-violence-against-inuit-women-girls-gender-diverse-persons/>



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit must be centered in all aspects of MMIWG2S+ work.** As the experts most impacted, they must hold the authority to shape and lead actions to address MMIWG2S+, not as tokenistic participants, but as decision-makers at every level.
- **All governmental responses to MMIWG2S+ and gender-based violence must guarantee meaningful leadership roles and decision-making power for Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.** Equitable representation must be embedded in policy design and implementation from the outset, not as an afterthought.
- **All responses to the Inuit Action Plan on MMIWG must incorporate Inuit-specific Gender-Based Analysis+ (ISGBA+);** uphold Inuit women's rights, ensure the equitable representation of Inuit women in leadership and governance, build capacity, and include Inuit living in urban areas.
- **Clear and transparent accountability mechanisms** must be established to track the implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice outlined in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, with regular, publicly accessible reports on progress.
- **All levels of government must recognize and respond to MMIWG2S+ as an ongoing crisis, not a historical one.** Resources must be directed toward prevention and immediate action, alongside meaningful and culturally grounded commemoration activities.
- **To support and inform evidence-based actions for preventing violence, the federal government must support new distinctions-based, gendered research on violence against Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit being done by Indigenous Women's organizations.** This includes research focused on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People and measures needed to prevent gendered violence.

