

**Toronto Star**

**We are rising in strength and power — it's time to end the genocide of Indigenous women**

The raping of the land, the stealing of resources, and desecration of water and ecosystems coincided with the ravaging of our people.

By [Brandi Morin](#) - Contributing Columnist

Thu., Dec. 8, 2022

Canada is a killing field of colonial genocide against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit peoples, who continue to die and disappear at horrifying rates. Recent staggering losses have united advocates, allies and families to demand Canada declare a state of emergency.

A serial killer who does not have the privilege of having his name acknowledged is accused of slaughtering four Indigenous women in Winnipeg. His murderous spree took place over just three months in the spring. He was charged with first-degree murder of Rebecca Contois, 24, in May after her partial remains were discovered near an apartment building and a landfill. Winnipeg Police announced on Dec. 1, he was also linked to the slayings of three other women: Morgan Beatrice Harris, 39, Mercedes Myran, 26, and an un-identified woman whom Indigenous elders have since named Buffalo Woman.

These fatalities are a symptom of an out-of-control extermination of Indigenous women and girls.

Despite a National Inquiry into the methodical deaths of Indigenous women and girls, which released 231 Calls for Justice in 2019, the state and wider society have been complacent. And the death toll is climbing.

This is nothing new.

The evil agenda against our women and girls has existed for over 500 years. Since the colonization of Indigenous territories in North America our Life Givers have been unceasingly targeted with misogyny, disrespect and violence. Due to racist and unjustified theologies that declared Indigenous lands were for the taking and that Indigenous Nations were not human beings as defined by the Doctrine of Discovery.

Our women were also regarded as for the taking. The raping of the land, the stealing of resources, and desecration of water and ecosystems coincided with the ravaging of our people. Yet, the exorbitant feast of rape, murder and disregard for our women and girls — our sacred, powerful Life Givers — has gone unchecked.

The Holocaust of colonial ideology continues.

The victims are in the thousands and counting. There's no real way to track exact figures because the policing systems have failed to accurately document, investigate and report these crimes. But we know the numbers are staggering because of the constant headlines of another sister taken, another plea from a relative searching, another vigil, another funeral. And endless unanswered questions.

Questions as to why this injustice in a democratic nation is met with apathy. Canada has the resources to immediately deal with this crisis, but it chooses to slumber in bureaucratic excuses as to why it's

taking so long to help save the lives of our women and girls. It has barely implemented the Calls for Justice, allowing the work of the inquiry to collect dust on the back burner of so-called priorities.

The racism, discrimination and inequality endured by Indigenous Peoples is evident in every adverse statistic. The First Peoples of this vast nation live under the suppression of their human rights daily while Canada presents a good façade of equity to the world.

Meanwhile, Canada and its citizens prosper off the wealth of the land. Extractive industries are backed by governments and police to decimate the last of healthy native lands while arresting Indigenous land defenders who dare stand in their way. Most of the land defenders, by the way, are Indigenous women and girls protecting their territories for current and future generations.

All this oppression is connected to the genocide of Indigenous women and girls. It forces our people to live in survival mode, placing our women in vulnerable circumstances and leaves them easy targets for murderers. This must be addressed at its core for it to be eradicated. But from what I'm seeing, I don't think our people will put up with the inertia anymore.

We are returning to our ancestral birthrights. We are powerful, we are sacred. And as Life Givers, we are the keepers of truth and justice. We have survived generations of degradation and abuse. Yet we are rising in strength and power.

We have had enough. The warrior blood that flows through our veins is boiling with outrage. And now we're at the tipping point. We are hunters of tyranny. And we will track it down with fierce precision.

The world is shouting for the liberation of women in Iran and a revolution of justice is catching fire. That fire is growing into a luminous blaze advancing freedom for women in all corners of the Earth, including Indigenous. We will storm the complacency of the status quo and dance, sing, drum and pray for its eradication.

A state of emergency may, or may not, be invoked by the powers that be, but believe me, they will hear the thundering cries for reparation past their cushioned minds of indifference. And the walls of inequity will come tumbling down.