

ARTS SPIRITUALITY/NATURE TRAUMA/HEALING

What I Learned About Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

by **Leya Hale** 🕒 11/21/2022

My new documentary, “Bring Her Home,” is now available on Twin Cities Public Television (TPT).

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As a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and Diné Nations, I have long been aware of the stories that are not told about sexual assault and violence against Native women. Attention started to be paid in Canada, and that began trickling into the U.S.

In 2014, there was a first-ever Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) rally in Minneapolis.

“Almanac,” a public affairs show from Twin Cities PBS, asked if I would capture footage and interview people about the event.

I thought it would be a small event, but when I arrived at the American Indian Center in Minneapolis, there were hundreds of people. I felt both overwhelmed and inspired. I had never seen a large group of people come together about this issue. I heard many women talking about the policies they were working to get passed. I heard women talking about the searches they were undertaking and their distrust in law enforcement. I learned about the lack of data that was making it hard to find solutions. I heard



i Leya Hale (courtesy photo)