



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Walking to protect our children: MMDR Task Force leads awareness walk ahead of spring session



MMDR Task Force walk with supporters to raise awareness to the crisis impacting families across the Navajo Nation.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Monday morning, prior to the opening of the 25th Navajo Nation Council’s 2025 Spring Session, Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Chair of the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force, led a solemn walk in honor of missing Diné children and to raise awareness around the ongoing crisis impacting Indigenous families across the Navajo Nation.

“The Navajo Nation and all of Indian country must prioritize our children who are wards in state and tribal systems,” said Chair Crotty. “Whether it’s jurisdictional gaps, poor data collection, or a lack of urgency, these issues persist because we allow them to. We walk to say that our children matter, their lives matter, and we will not rest until they are safe and accounted for.”

Joined by Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman and MMDR advocates from across the region, the group walked together toward the Council Chamber, carrying signs, wearing red in solidarity, and sharing prayers and messages of strength and remembrance.

Upon arriving at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber, the participants were provided space to speak, sharing personal stories, policy concerns, and calls to action.

The walk served not only as a demonstration of unity and urgency but also as a reminder that the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people demands sustained national attention and tribal-led solutions.

Participants included Division of Children and Family Services Deputy Director Sonlatsa Jim, Anthony Begaye from the Navajo Treatment Center, Office of the Prosecutor Principal Witness Victim Advocate Juanita Martinez, Office of the President and Vice President Staff Assistant Yolanda Azul, Office of the Prosecutor Major Crimes Unit Kevin C. Barnett, Esq., and National Missing and Unidentified Person System Tribal Liaison Cornelia Perry.

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