



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2025

Speaker Curley calls on FBI Director to increase federal support to address missing and murdered persons cases



Speaker Crystalyne Curley addresses FBI Director Kash Patel during a roundtable discussion held in Washington, D.C. on May 5, 2025.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a roundtable discussion with FBI Director Kash Patel on Monday, Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley called on federal officials to increase support and resources to help the Navajo Nation combat the ongoing missing and murdered persons crisis.

Speaker Curley wore a shirt displaying a photo of 11-year-old Ashlynn Mike, a Navajo girl who went missing in 2016 and was later found deceased. The shirt was given to Speaker Curley during a memorial walk hosted by the family of Ashlynn Mike on Friday.

“Today is missing and murdered Indigenous peoples day, and I wear this shirt to honor the memory of a precious child, Ashlynn Mike, whose life was taken. Sadly, it is a case that could’ve been prevented,” said Speaker Curley.

Prior to the roundtable discussion, Speaker Curley worked with Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty and the Navajo Nation Washington Office to identify key federal policies that require more support including the federal Not Invisible Act.

The Act became law in October 2020 and established the 'Not Invisible Act' Commission as a cross jurisdictional advisory committee composed of both federal and non-federal members including law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors.

In 2023, Speaker Curley and Delegate Crotty submitted comments to the Department of the Interior, outlining recommendations to guide Congress and federal agencies on how to best combat the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples and human trafficking.

"We call on the Trump Administration and the FBI to uphold and fully implement the Not Invisible Act, and include the recommendations of tribes," Speaker Curley stated. "The Navajo Nation currently has 68 missing persons. We need more law enforcement, criminal investigators, and medical examiners."

Speaker Curley also spoke about the need for more federal funding for DNA testing to help solve missing and murdered persons cases and funding for rapid response teams to help locate people when they are reported missing.

The roundtable discussion was held at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting, hosted by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum.

In 2021, the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee was established to ensure tribal leaders have direct and consistent communication with the officials to facilitate discussions on intergovernmental responsibilities, exchange views, share information and provide advice and recommendations regarding Departmental programs and funding.

###