

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5573

To establish within the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. BUSH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. BROWN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. FROST, Ms. WATERS, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MFUME, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. IVEY, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CLYBURN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish within the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Britanny Clardy Miss-  
3 ing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Black women and girls are uniquely vulner-  
7 able and too easily erased from public discussions  
8 about missing and murdered people.

9 (2) According to the National Crime Informa-  
10 tion Center, in 2020, of the 268,884 girls and  
11 women reported missing, 90,333, or nearly 34 per-  
12 cent, were Black, while Black girls and women make  
13 up only 15 percent of the female population in the  
14 United States.

15 (3) Nationally, cases involving Black girls and  
16 women stay open four times longer than other cases  
17 on average, as reported by Convention on the Elimini-  
18 nation of Racial Discrimination.

19 (4) Nationally, Black women have the highest  
20 rates of death due to homicide among women (4.4.  
21 per 100,000 compared to 1.5 per 100,000 for White  
22 women) and statistically shown these murders are  
23 most often committed by an intimate partner or  
24 someone the victim knows.

25 (5) Understanding the roots of how and why  
26 Black women and girls are not as well protected

1 from violence as White women and girls requires at-  
2 tention to both historical and present-day manifesta-  
3 tions of interlocking systems of oppression, such as  
4 racism and sexism.

5 (6) Effective research regarding the racial in-  
6 equities surrounding violence against women and  
7 girls should—

8 (A) involve local, relevant community en-  
9 gaged research expertise in the area;

10 (B) seek to center community members as  
11 essential experts through interviews and focus  
12 groups with Black women and girls who have  
13 lived experience within the topic;

14 (C) include the use of mixed methods ap-  
15 proaches to evaluate, monitor, and communicate  
16 data with the broader impacted communities;  
17 and

18 (D) include a long-term evaluation plan to  
19 assess the impact of the data collection efforts  
20 and involve data specialists or consultants  
21 equipped to build tracking and reporting infra-  
22 structure.

23 (7) That considering all the facts above, the ex-  
24 isting Federal resources dedicated to combatting vio-  
25 lence against women and girls is not enough to ad-

1 dress this problem and additional resources must be  
2 targeted directly to protecting, supporting and pro-  
3 viding justice to Black women and girl in the United  
4 States.

5 **SEC. 3. OFFICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK**  
6 **WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
8 the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Mur-  
9 dered Black Women and Girls (hereinafter referred to as  
10 the “Office”), which shall be headed by a Director ap-  
11 pointed by the Attorney General.

12 (b) PERSONNEL AND FUNDS.—Not later than 90  
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attor-  
14 ney General shall provide to the Office such personnel and  
15 funds as necessary to establish and operate the Office as  
16 a component of the Department.

17 (c) DUTIES OF OFFICE.—The Director of the Office  
18 shall—

19 (1) serve as the legal and policy advisor to the  
20 Attorney General to ensure justice for missing and  
21 murdered Black women and girls;

22 (2) develop recommendations for policies to ad-  
23 dress injustice in the criminal justice system’s re-  
24 sponse to cases of missing and murdered Black  
25 women and girls;

1           (3) establish a national advisory commission of  
2           Black women and girls who have experienced vio-  
3           lence, abduction, or trafficking, and family members  
4           who have lost a loved one to this violence;

5           (4) coordinate with the relevant Federal agen-  
6           cies, the national advisory commission established in  
7           paragraph (3), State, local, and Tribal agencies, and  
8           local family services agencies to—

9                   (A) collect data on missing person and  
10                  homicide cases involving Black women and  
11                  girls, including the total number of cases, the  
12                  rate at which the cases are solved, the length of  
13                  time the cases remain open, and a comparison  
14                  to similar cases involving different demographic  
15                  groups;

16                   (B) collect data on Amber Alerts, including  
17                  the total number of Amber Alerts issued, the  
18                  total number of Amber Alerts that involve  
19                  Black girls, and the outcome of cases involving  
20                  Amber Alerts disaggregated by the child's race  
21                  and sex;

22                   (C) collect data on reports of missing  
23                  Black girls, including the number classified as  
24                  voluntary runaways, and a comparison to simi-

1           lar cases involving different demographic  
2           groups; and

3           (D) conduct case reviews and report on the  
4           results of such reviews for cases involving miss-  
5           ing and murdered Black women and girls, in-  
6           cluding—

7                   (i) cold cases for missing Black  
8                   women and girls; and

9                   (ii) death investigation review for  
10                  cases of Black women and girls ruled as  
11                  suicide or overdose under suspicious cir-  
12                  cumstances.

13           (5) develop tools and processes to evaluate the  
14           implementation and impact of the efforts of the Of-  
15           fice;

16           (6) facilitate technical assistance for State,  
17           local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies during  
18           active cases involving missing and murdered Black  
19           women and girls; and

20           (7) create and maintain a centralized data re-  
21           pository and public dashboard for the tracking of  
22           missing and Murdered Black women and girls.

23           (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—

24                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the first Jan-  
25           uary 15th after the date of enactment of this Act,

1 and biennially thereafter, the Director of the Office,  
2 in coordination with the relevant Federal agencies  
3 and State, local, and Tribal agencies, shall submit a  
4 report to the covered committees on missing and  
5 murdered Black women and girls, including—

6 (A) an analysis and assessment of any  
7 data collected in subsection (c)(4);

8 (B) an analysis and assessment on the  
9 intersection between cases involving missing  
10 and murdered Black women and girls and labor  
11 trafficking and sex trafficking;

12 (C) any findings derived from the case re-  
13 views conducted under subsection (c)(4)(D);

14 (D) an analysis of any case review con-  
15 ducted relating to the prosecution and sen-  
16 tencing for cases where a perpetrator com-  
17 mitted a violent or exploitative crime against a  
18 Black woman or girl;

19 (E) reviews sentencing guidelines for  
20 crimes related to missing and murdered Black  
21 women and girls; and

22 (F) recommendations for policies to ad-  
23 dress to the criminal justice system's response  
24 to cases of missing and murdered Black women  
25 and girls, including—

1 (i) the intersection between cases in-  
2 volving missing and murdered Black  
3 women and girls and labor trafficking and  
4 sex trafficking; and

5 (ii) analyze and assess the intersection  
6 between cases involving murdered Black  
7 women and girls and domestic violence, in-  
8 cluding prior instances of domestic violence  
9 within the family or relationship, whether  
10 an offender had prior convictions for do-  
11 mestic assault or related offenses, and  
12 whether the offender used a firearm in the  
13 murder or any prior instances of domestic  
14 assault.

15 (2) COVERED COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this  
16 subsection, the term “covered committees” means  
17 the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee  
18 on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-  
19 tives and the Committee on the Judiciary and the  
20 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
21 Affairs of the Senate.

22 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**  
23 **TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES.**

24 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Not later than  
25 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the



1 Director of the Office shall establish a grant program to  
2 provide grants to community-based organizations that  
3 provide services designed to prevent or end the targeting  
4 of Black women or girls or provide assistance to victims  
5 of offenses that targeted Black women or girls.

6 (b) GRANT AWARD.—Community-based organiza-  
7 tions awarded a grant under this section shall use the  
8 amount awarded under the grant program to—

9 (1) provide culturally appropriate services de-  
10 signed to reduce or prevent crimes that target Black  
11 women or girls;

12 (2) provide culturally appropriate training re-  
13 lated to the handling of situations and crimes tar-  
14 geting of Black women and girls, including training  
15 for law enforcement officers, county attorneys, city  
16 attorneys, judges, and other criminal justice part-  
17 ners; and

18 (3) provide victim services or survivorship sup-  
19 port to Black women and girls who are victims of  
20 crimes or other offenses or to the family members of  
21 missing and murdered Black women and girls.

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