

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6828

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 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, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. PORTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. CHU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Brittany Clardy Miss-
5 ing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

21 (4) Nationally, Black women have the highest
22 rates of death due to homicide among women (4.4.
23 per 100,000 compared to 1.5 per 100,000 for White
24 women) and statistically shown these murders are

1 most often committed by an intimate partner or
2 someone the victim knows.

3 (5) Understanding the roots of how and why
4 Black women and girls are not as well protected
5 from violence as White women and girls requires at-
6 tention to both historical and present-day manifesta-
7 tions of interlocking systems of oppression, such as
8 racism and sexism.

9 (6) Effective research regarding the racial in-
10 equities surrounding violence against women and
11 girls should—

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

14 (B) seek to center community members as
15 essential experts through interviews and focus
16 groups with Black women and girls who have
17 lived experience within the topic;

18 (C) include the use of mixed methods ap-
19 proaches to evaluate, monitor, and communicate
20 data with the broader impacted communities;
21 and

22 (D) include a long-term evaluation plan to
23 assess the impact of the data collection efforts
24 and involve data specialists or consultants

1 equipped to build tracking and reporting infra-
2 structure.

3 (7) That considering all the facts above, the ex-
4 isting Federal resources dedicated to combatting vio-
5 lence against women and girls is not enough to ad-
6 dress this problem and additional resources must be
7 targeted directly to protecting, supporting and pro-
8 viding justice to Black women and girls in the
9 United States.

10 **SEC. 3. OFFICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK**
11 **WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

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

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

22 (c) DUTIES OF OFFICE.—The Director of the Office
23 shall—

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

4 (2) develop recommendations for policies to ad-
5 dress injustice in the criminal justice system’s re-
6 sponse to cases of missing and murdered Black
7 women and girls;

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

12 (4) coordinate with the relevant Federal agen-
13 cies, the national advisory commission established in
14 paragraph (3), State, local, and Tribal agencies, and
15 local family services agencies to—

16 (A) collect data on missing person and
17 homicide cases involving Black women and
18 girls, including the total number of cases, the
19 rate at which the cases are solved, the length of
20 time the cases remain open, and a comparison
21 to similar cases involving different demographic
22 groups;

23 (B) collect data on Amber Alerts, including
24 the total number of Amber Alerts issued, the
25 total number of Amber Alerts that involve

1 Black girls, and the outcome of cases involving
2 Amber Alerts disaggregated by the child's race
3 and sex;

4 (C) collect data on reports of missing
5 Black girls, including the number classified as
6 voluntary runaways, and a comparison to simi-
7 lar cases involving different demographic
8 groups; and

9 (D) conduct case reviews and report on the
10 results of such reviews for cases involving miss-
11 ing and murdered Black women and girls, in-
12 cluding—

13 (i) cold cases for missing Black
14 women and girls; and

15 (ii) death investigation review for
16 cases of Black women and girls ruled as
17 suicide or overdose under suspicious cir-
18 cumstances;

19 (5) develop tools and processes to evaluate the
20 implementation and impact of the efforts of the Of-
21 fice;

22 (6) facilitate technical assistance for State,
23 local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies during
24 active cases involving missing and murdered Black
25 women and girls; and

1 (7) create and maintain a centralized data re-
2 pository and public dashboard for the tracking of
3 missing and murdered Black women and girls.

4 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the first Jan-
6 uary 15th after the date of enactment of this Act,
7 and biennially thereafter, the Director of the Office,
8 in coordination with the relevant Federal agencies
9 and State, local, and Tribal agencies, shall submit a
10 report to the covered committees on missing and
11 murdered Black women and girls, including—

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

14 (B) an analysis and assessment on the
15 intersection between cases involving missing
16 and murdered Black women and girls and labor
17 trafficking and sex trafficking;

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

20 (D) an analysis of any case review con-
21 ducted relating to the prosecution and sen-
22 tencing for cases where a perpetrator com-
23 mitted a violent or exploitative crime against a
24 Black woman or girl;

1 (E) reviews sentencing guidelines for
2 crimes related to missing and murdered Black
3 women and girls; and

4 (F) recommendations for policies to ad-
5 dress to the criminal justice system’s response
6 to cases of missing and murdered Black women
7 and girls, including—

8 (i) the intersection between cases in-
9 volving missing and murdered Black
10 women and girls and labor trafficking and
11 sex trafficking; and

12 (ii) analyze and assess the intersection
13 between cases involving murdered Black
14 women and girls and domestic violence, in-
15 cluding prior instances of domestic violence
16 within the family or relationship, whether
17 an offender had prior convictions for do-
18 mestic assault or related offenses, and
19 whether the offender used a firearm in the
20 murder or any prior instances of domestic
21 assault.

22 (2) COVERED COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this
23 subsection, the term “covered committees” means
24 the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee
25 on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-

1 tives and the Committee on the Judiciary and the
2 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
3 Affairs of the Senate.

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

6 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Not later than
7 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 Director of the Office shall establish a grant program to
9 provide grants to community-based organizations that
10 provide services designed to prevent or end the targeting
11 of Black women or girls or provide assistance to victims
12 of offenses that targeted Black women or girls.

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

16 (1) provide culturally appropriate services de-
17 signed to reduce or prevent crimes that target Black
18 women or girls;

19 (2) provide culturally appropriate training re-
20 lated to the handling of situations and crimes tar-
21 geting of Black women and girls, including training
22 for law enforcement officers, county attorneys, city
23 attorneys, judges, and other criminal justice part-
24 ners; and

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

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