

What you can DO:

In Anishinaabe-Aki/Michigan, the Mt. Pleasant Indian Boarding School operated from 1893 until 1934. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has uncovered records and oral histories that indicate at least 227 children died at the school during its 41 years of operation. The school was operated by a mission of the United Methodist Church. The Holy Childhood of Jesus Indian Boarding School operated in Harbor Springs from 1886 until 1983. It was one of the last such schools to close in the U.S. Holy Childhood was operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Franciscan Brothers, under the oversight of the Catholic Diocese of Gaylord. The Holy Name of Jesus Indian Boarding School operated in Baraga (Assinins) and was operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The truth about U.S. Indian boarding school policies has been largely written out of the history books. Healing, justice, and reconciliation must begin with truth-telling and learning. View the powerful film “Dawnland” to learn about the impact of such genocidal practices on Native American children and their families.

1. **Call on your Congressperson to co-sponsor the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act.”**

Congressional Switchboard: 202-224-3121

Rep. Jack Bergman, 566 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515

Senator Debbie Stabenow, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

Senator Gary Peters, 724 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D 20510

2. **Call on your faith community to support this legislation and to support the work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Go to the coalition website for resources for churches:**

<https://boardingschoolhealing.org/healing/for-churches/>

3. **Explore educational resources for your community’s schools—go to <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/get-involved/for-teachers/> for free lesson plans, reading lists and other resources.**

4. **Support efforts of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan to document the deaths of over 227 children at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial School during its operation from 1893 to 1934.**

<http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/planyourvisit/boardingschool/index2.htm>

5. **Explore additional ways you can support Indigenous issues and Native-led organizations. Go to bit.ly/ShowUpForNativePeople for a wealth of ideas and resources.**

6. **Follow us on Facebook and on the web:**

Native Justice Coalition (nativejustice.org)

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians--LRBOI (lrboi-nsn.gov)

Manistee Area Racial Justice & Diversity Initiative--MARJDI (marjdi.org)