

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming October 2017 as Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Domestic and sexual violence is a complex and pervasive problem in our community that affects individuals across economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal lines.
- B. Serious domestic and sexual violence affects one in three women and one in four men in their lifetimes. It can have long-term damaging effects on an individual, and on family, friends, and the community at large. In 2016 more than 60 people in Oregon were killed as a result of domestic violence. This year, 27 people have died already due to domestic violence.
- C. One in fifteen children witness domestic and sexual violence. Exposure to domestic and sexual violence harms children and places them at risk of experiencing further violence.
- D. Domestic and sexual violence is a significant contributing factor to unemployment and poverty. Victims of intimate partner violence lose a total of 8 million paid leave work days each year. An estimated 21-60% of intimate partner violence victims lose their jobs for reasons stemming from abuse, and victims are saddled with increased acute and persistent health care costs as a consequence of abuse.
- E. Although domestic and sexual violence can affect anyone, the impact is not uniform. We must continue to recognize survivors who experience disproportionate rates of domestic violence, and who have been marginalized for generations, including individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, older adults, and women of color. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Black and African American women experience intimate partner violence at a rate 35% higher than that of White women, and about 2.5 times the rate of women of other races. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that young women of color are significantly more likely to be victims of domestic homicide.
- F. Challenges faced by communities of color in general -- poverty, poor education, limited job resources, language barriers, fear of deportation, inadequate culturally responsive and linguistically competent services -- are especially limiting and harmful for women of color experiencing violence. Efforts to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence must be informed by an equity lens, and responsive to disparities experienced by survivors in Multnomah County.
- G. Multnomah County is a leader in addressing domestic and sexual violence through its prevention, public safety, and health and human services programs. Multnomah County

is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity and self-determination of those who have been harmed by domestic and sexual violence, safeguarding the wellbeing of children who have been impacted by domestic and sexual violence, and providing appropriate intervention and accountability with domestic and sexual violence offenders.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. October 2017 to be Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.
2. We urge all Multnomah County residents to actively work towards the elimination of domestic and sexual violence by supporting survivors, holding perpetrators responsible, and promoting healthy, respectful relationships.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

Sharon Meieran
Commissioner District 1

Loretta Smith
Commissioner District 2

Jessica Vega Pederson
Commissioner District 3

Lori Stegmann
Commissioner District 4

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: