



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is dedicated to taking a strong stand against sexual assault and to eliminating this and other acts of gender-based violence that threaten the safety and well-being of all individuals, children, and families; and

Whereas, sexual violence is a dangerous form of abuse that is rooted in power and control, and impacts New Yorkers without regard to age, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic, immigration, and housing status; and

Whereas, today, sexual violence remains one of the most prevalent yet underreported crimes in the United States; and

Whereas, New York State is the only state in the country to have an executive level state agency dedicated to the issue of gender-based violence and is staffed by leadership dedicated to eradicating gender-based violence; and

Whereas, through its network of rape crisis and sexual assault services programs, New York State provides critical support to survivors and victims, ensuring they receive the help they need to survive sexual violence; and

Whereas, protecting sexual assault survivors is a priority on college and university campuses and New York State has some of the strongest laws in the country, including the "Enough is Enough" legislation, which established the nation's most aggressive policies aimed at fighting sexual assault on the campuses of higher education institutions; and

Whereas, New York State is dedicated to protecting survivors by implementing a survivor centered, trauma informed, and culturally responsive gender-based violence in the workplace policy, which focuses on assisting employees experiencing gender-based violence by providing resources and explaining protections and benefits in the law about time off from work to handle court appearances or medical issues, as well as workplace accommodations that are available to protect employees, including from adverse employment actions; and

Whereas, the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is actively working to create a culture free from sexual violence through public awareness campaigns, such as "Starting the Conversation" which encourages community-wide discussions about sexual assault and all other gender-based violence, and through social media, installations, and professional education; and

Whereas, our State is committed to empowering the voices of survivors of sexual assault and all gender-based violence and supporting their healing journey; all New Yorkers are united in offering unequivocal support during this month-long observance to survivors of sexual violence and the work of public and private entities striving to provide them with the best possible services with creating a culture free from sexual violence;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the city of Albany this twenty-eighth day of March in the year two thousand and twenty three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh