



Washington State Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
WomenSpirit Coalition
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For Immediate Release

WomenSpirit Coalition requests the recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month by the state of Washington through the following proclamation

The Washington State Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in recognition of the important work done by survivors, domestic violence programs and victim service providers, and tribal nations

WHEREAS, in just one day, across the U.S. and its territories, nearly 75,000 victims of domestic violence sought services from domestic violence programs and shelters. That same day, more than 9,000 requests for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare and legal representation, could not be provided because programs lacked the resources to meet victims' needs;

WHEREAS, Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be assaulted than other groups of women in the United States and homicide is the third leading cause of death for Native women;

WHEREAS, the impact of domestic violence is wide ranging, directly affecting individuals and society as a whole, here in this community, throughout the United States and the world, and

WHEREAS, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism and discrimination based on physical ability, nationality or other factors help to perpetuate domestic violence and make finding safety even more difficult for some victims;

WHEREAS, we recognize the shared history and common realities among the indigenous and Black communities and acknowledge that adequately responding to domestic violence saves Black and indigenous lives. Black Lives Matter;

WHEREAS, ending domestic violence requires the leadership of survivors, support of Tribal leaders, state government, effective criminal justice responses, well informed public health services and educated community members, and demands that all systems and individuals commit to non-violence; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence remains one of the most prevalent, yet underreported crimes in the Nation and in Indian Country;

Now therefore, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Washington

and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance