

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kansas

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TOPEKA, Kan. – On Friday, October 11, 2019, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly signed the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation, marking October 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kansas.

In a Facebook post, the Governor's Office announced the Proclamation saying, "Millions of people across our state and nation are affected by domestic violence each year. To help raise awareness and show support for victims and survivors of domestic violence, I signed a proclamation marking October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kansas."

The proclamation was written and submitted by the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV). KCSDV leadership and staff and KCSDV coalition member program



leadership and staff, YWCA Northeast Kansas CEO Kathleen Marker and YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment Public Education Coordinator Cam Cameron, were present for the proclamation ceremony signing.

The awareness month stems from the movement to help victims and survivors of domestic violence. The first Day of Unity for victims and survivors was held in 1981, and this evolved into a week-long period of gathering and events to increase awareness about domestic violence.

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was established in 1987, and in 1989, federal legislation passed to nationally recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

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In 2018, Kansas domestic violence victim advocacy services programs collectively provided services to 702 domestic violence victims in just one day. Over 77,000 individuals sought and were provided with victim advocacy services by Kansas victim advocacy services programs in 2018. In that year, 4,000 requests for service had to be referred to other service providers outside the victim's community. A fourth of all homicides in the year in Kansas were domestic violence-related.

Domestic violence, intimate partner violence, is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior used to gain dominance, power, and control over an intimate partner. It includes the use of illegal and legal behaviors and tactics that undermine the victim's sense of self, free will, and safety. The abusive behavior can impact other family members and can be used in other family relationships. Abusive tactics that all abusers used in varying levels include but are not limited to: physical violence; sexual violence; coercion and threats; intimidation; emotional abuse; isolation; using children; economic abuse; male privilege/entitlement; minimizing, denying, and blaming.

"Domestic violence impacts all Kansans and Kansas communities," said Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) Executive Director Joyce Grover. "Domestic violence is a widespread, preventable public health problem. It takes us all to create safe environments and communities."

For further information on domestic violence, contact Lucca Wang at 785-633-6648 and lwang@kcsdv.org.

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The [Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence \(KCSDV\)](http://kcsdv.org)'s mission is to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence. Find more information on KCSDV's website at <http://kcsdv.org>.

The 24-hour Kansas Crisis Hotline is 888-END-ABUS(E), or 888-363-2287.

