

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a widespread, preventable, public health problem in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is any sexual act that is perpetrated against someone's will, which includes sexual assault, rape, unwanted touching, threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, and verbal sexual harassment; and all types of sexual violence involve victims who do not consent, or who are unable to consent, or who refuse to allow the act; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 women and nearly 1 in 6 men experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has made it more difficult for many sexual violence victims to get help; and

WHEREAS, Kansans want to increase ways to empower survivors to speak out and get help, especially during this health emergency; and

WHEREAS, one incident of rape is reported to Kansas law enforcement every 7 hours, 56 minutes, 5 seconds; and more than 1,100 people reported sexual assaults to law enforcement agencies in 2020 while more than 5,300 people receive services for sexual assault from 25 Kansas victim advocacy organizations each year- however, these statistics do not represent the true prevalence of sexual violence due to underreporting; and sex offenders often targeting people they perceive as vulnerable, less powerful, or less credible; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. For too long harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse and exploitation have come to be expected as typical and unavoidable behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the offender is known to the victim in the vast majority of cases – 80% in Kansas, and the effects of sexual violence may be felt directly after or for many months or years later; and confusion, anger, sadness, shame, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, and self-blame are all common reactions to sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, there is 24/7/365, free and confidential help available to victims of sexual violence from Kansas victim advocacy organizations located across the state; and the Kansas Crisis Hotline is available at 1-888-363-2287

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2022 as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 1st day of
April, A.D. 2022

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Scott Schaub
Secretary of State

Jennifer Cook
Assistant Secretary of State