

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; all types of sexual violence involve victims who do not consent, are unable to consent, or refuse to allow the act; and

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

WHEREAS, one incident of rape is reported to Kansas law enforcement every 7 hours, 19 minutes, 6 seconds; over 5,300 people receive services for sexual assault from Kansas victim advocacy organizations each year; and

WHEREAS, these statistics do not represent the true prevalence of sexual violence due to underreporting; and

WHEREAS, sex offenders often target people they perceive as vulnerable, less powerful, or less credible; the offender is known to the victim in many cases – including 78 percent of reported cases in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the effects of sexual violence may be felt directly after and for many months or years; confusion, anger, sadness, shame, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, and self-blame are all common reactions to sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, there is free and confidential help available to victims of sexual violence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, 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 April 2023, 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 31st day of
March, A.D. 2023



BY THE GOVERNOR: Laura Kelly
Scott Schubert
Secretary of State
Jennifer Cook
Assistant Secretary of State