

Sample Proclamation

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WHEREAS, home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, tranquility, and security, and for most of us, home and family can indeed be counted among our greatest blessings. Tragically, for many Americans, these are blessings that are tarnished by violence and fear; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is more than the occasional family dispute. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey report, *Intimate Partner Violence*, 876,340 women were victimized by domestic violence in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in our country, 1,320 female homicide victims in 1998 were killed by their husbands or boyfriends, which means that more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day; and

WHEREAS, women are not the only targets; young children and the elderly also are counted among the victims, and, sadly, emotional scars are often permanent; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of organizations has emerged to directly confront this crisis. Law enforcement officials, those involved with shelters and hotline services, health care providers, the clergy and other concerned citizens are helping in the effort to end domestic violence. We must recognize the compassion and dedication of these volunteers and professionals, applaud their efforts and increase public understanding of this important problem.

NOW THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all citizens to observe this month by becoming aware of the tragedy of domestic violence, supporting those who are working toward its end, and participating in community efforts.

- Submitted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- Adapted from a proclamation used by the Mayor of Eagle Pass, TX
- Statistics from U.S. Department of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, May 2000