



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is committed to taking a firm stand against sexual assault and to eliminating this and other acts of violence that threaten the safety and welfare of all individuals, children and families; and

Whereas, sexual violence is a dangerous form of abuse that is rooted in control and impacts New Yorkers without regard to age, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic, immigration, and housing status; and

Whereas, more than one in three women and nearly one in four men will experience sexual violence involving physical contact in their lifetime; and

Whereas, today, sexual violence remains one of the most prevalent yet underreported crimes in the United States, and it continues to cause suffering for adults and children, furthermore impacting their communities and our whole society; and

Whereas, New York State's efforts are supported by dedicated leadership, and rape crisis and sexual assault services programs that address the needs and concerns of survivors to ensure they receive help in recovering from acts of sexual violence; and

Whereas, every person in New York State has the right to a safe, secure workplace, and harassment can foreshadow even more aggressive and dangerous acts of sexual violence, and our state has taken steps to address harassment common in the work environment; last month saw the enactment of a package of legislation to address workplace harassment and discrimination, including the establishment of a toll free confidential hotline for complaints of workplace sexual harassment; another law includes all State and public employers in the provisions of the Human Rights Law, closing a loophole that exempted them from the consequences of sexual harassment; a third law makes it illegal for employers to take retaliatory action against employees who file complaints about harassment in the workplace; and

Whereas New York State has some of the strongest laws in the country protecting sexual assault survivors on college campuses, including the State's "Enough is Enough" legislation, which established the nation's most aggressive policies aimed at fighting sexual assault on college and university campuses; and

Whereas, increasing public awareness of sexual assault is a priority of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which educates New Yorkers through initiatives and programs centered on preventing and responding to sexual violence; and

Whereas, New Yorkers are united in offering unequivocal support during this month-long observance to the survivors of sexual violence and the work of public and private entities striving to provide them with the best possible services, while sending a clear message to abusers that such crimes will never be tolerated;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day
of March in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh