



PROCLAMATION

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: October 2026

Relationship abuse, defined as a pattern of behavior used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner occurs throughout Minnesota and across the nation. Systematic racism and disparities affect victims and survivors of domestic violence, underscoring the importance of ensuring everyone has access to the help they need. Domestic violence programs across the state, including local organizations like Dwelling House and Alexandra House, provide crucial support and resources to over 55,000 victims and survivors in Minnesota. These programs serve individuals of all migrant statuses because no one should have to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or finding safety.

Safe, affordable, and long-term housing is a fundamental human right, yet domestic violence remains a leading cause of homelessness for women. Victims and survivors must be believed and supported in their pursuit of justice, empowering others to come forward and hold those who commit harm accountable. We remember the lives of over 700 Minnesotans lost to intimate partner violence in the past three decades. Community collaboration is vital to ensuring the safety of victims and survivors throughout Minnesota.

Preventing violence before it begins and transforming behavior after violence occurs is crucial to our shared goal of a violence-free Columbia Heights and Minnesota.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor, proclaim October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Columbia Heights.

As we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let us remember the power of hope, resilience, and community. Together, we can create a future where all individuals are safe, supported, and free from violence. Let us stand united in our commitment to end domestic violence and support those on their journey to healing and empowerment. No matter how small, every action brings us closer to a world where love and respect prevail.

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor
October 13, 2026