



City of Medina, Washington
PROCLAMATION
2022 Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Building Safe Online Spaces Together

Whereas: In Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, and 29% of the survivors who were supported by community sexual assault organizations statewide identified as Black, Indigenous and people of color in 2019. Of those identifying ethnicity, 21% identified as Latinx/Hispanic; and

Whereas: Rape is among the most underreported crimes for many reasons, including victims' fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within the legal system. Additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism further oppress and silence victims; and

Whereas: Individual and community impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded by racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression. Black, Indigenous and other people of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ+ people, elders, people with disabilities, and other people targeted by oppression are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

Whereas: Sexual violence exists on a continuum of behavior and includes racist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, ableist or other hate speech. This ranges from rape jokes to verbal harassment to threats of rape and assault. Harassing comments and behaviors that take place online can and do traumatize victims, and their impacts should not be minimized; and

Whereas: 41% of Americans have been personally subjected to harassing behavior online, and people from historically oppressed groups are more likely to experience online harassment, mirroring inequities we see elsewhere in society; and

Whereas: Negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on adults, youth, and children include fear, concern for safety, physical and mental health conditions, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; and

Whereas: Working together as a community, we can alleviate the trauma of sexual violence by ensuring supportive resources are available to all survivors, while standing up to and actively disrupting harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual violence.

Now, therefore, I/WE, CITY OF MEDINA join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors and proclaiming April 2022 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH.

Together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

Jessica Rossman, Mayor – City of Medina