



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism further oppress and silence victims; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment, assault, and abuse happen in all communities and that includes online spaces; and

WHEREAS, we are spending more and more of our lives online - whether that's for work, school, or entertainment, and with this increase in virtual connection unfortunately comes an increase in potential online abuse and harassment; and

WHEREAS, consent and boundaries can be violated online in several ways, and the trauma of online abuse is all too real for many survivors; and

WHEREAS, King County is home to many organizations that provide culturally and linguistically specific services for survivors from various racial, ethnic, faith, and cultural communities, survivors who are immigrants and refugees, survivors who are LGBTQ, and survivors with disabilities and such culturally specific services are critical to effectively respond to the specific needs and barriers many survivors face; and

WHEREAS, we can create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of practicing consent, keeping kids safe, and supporting survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Mercer Island and urge all residents to join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to ensure that our online communities are safe and respectful for everyone and prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors. Together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

APPROVED, this 5th day of April 2022

Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 287

