



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. Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ+ people, elders, people with disabilities and others who have been historically oppressed are disproportionately affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways.

Sexual assault is among the most underreported crimes for many reasons, but survivors who are already most marginalized face additional barriers to reporting, such as language, immigration status or disability. Ending sexual violence requires us to address racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression that contribute to the perpetration of sexual assault.

Sexual violence exists on a continuum of behavior that includes racist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, ableist or other hate speech. This ranges from rape jokes to verbal harassment to physical assaults.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim APRIL 2024 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

And encourage the Mercer Island community to work together to 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.

APPROVED, this 2nd day of APRIL 2024

Mayor Salim Nice

