



# City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Sexual assault is pervasive: Every 68 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States. Sexual violence impacts everyone. Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence, and people who commit sexual abuse, assault, and harassment exist in all of our communities. This underscores why it's important for all of us to care about sexual violence and take steps to promote the safety and well-being of others.

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.

Survivors of sexual assault may never forget their victimization, but they can heal with support from family, friends and their communities. Sexual assault programs across King County and Washington state offer free and confidential support, advocacy, information and resources to survivors

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH**

And encourage the Mercer Island community to take action to 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 1st day of April 2025.

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Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 325

