



# 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. Systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism contribute to higher sexual harassment, assault, and abuse rates.

Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse happen in all communities, including online spaces. Consent and boundaries can be violated in many ways and additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism further oppress and silence victims.

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.

As we work towards a future without sexual violence, we all must respond to the needs of those most impacted by systemic oppression.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim APRIL 2023 as

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

**APPROVED**, this 4th day of APRIL 2023

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Mayor Salim Nice



Proclamation No. 304