



# City of Bellevue | Proclamation

**Whereas:** In Washington state, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

**Whereas:** In King County, 7,152 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2020; and

**Whereas:** Rape is among the most underreported crimes for reasons that include victim's fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized. Additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism contribute further to the silencing of victims; and

**Whereas:** Individual and community impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded by racial, gender, sexual orientation and other forms of oppression; and

**Whereas:** Statewide, 29% of the survivors who were supported by a community sexual assault organization identified as Black, Indigenous and people of color in 2019. Of those identifying ethnicity, 21% identified as Latinx/Hispanic; 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. These culturally-specific services are critical to effectively respond to the specific needs and barriers many survivors face; and

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

**Now, therefore, I,** Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors and proclaiming April 2021 as:

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

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

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Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
City of Bellevue