



# 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, 5,059 individuals and their families received services from the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center in 2021; 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:** Negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on adults, youth and children include fear, concern for safety, physical and mental health conditions, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury and missed work or school; and

**Whereas:** King County is home to many organizations that provide culturally and linguistically specific services for survivors of sexual assault. These services are critical to effectively respond to many survivors' specific needs; and

**Whereas:** Only by 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 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 2022 as:

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

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

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Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
City of Bellevue