



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, more than 7,400 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2019; and

Whereas: Demand for services to help survivors heal has increased significantly since 2016, reflecting the cultural shift that is taking place that has prompted many survivors who have remained silent to now speak up and seek the help they need to heal; and

Whereas: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families are staying at home under the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order during a time of stress; and

Whereas: The Bellevue Police Department reports a 14% increase in domestic disturbance calls during this time when social distancing requirements have been in place; and

Whereas: Negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on women, men, children and youth include fear, concern for safety, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; 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: King County is home to many organizations that provide culturally and linguistically specific services for survivors from various racial/ethnic, faith, ability, and cultural communities, and these culturally specific services are critical to effectively respond to the specific needs and barriers many survivors face; and

Whereas: Working together to educate our community about sexual violence, supporting survivors when they come forward, speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions, and engaging in best-practice sexual violence prevention, we can help end sexual violence in our community.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **April 2020** as:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

and ask all residents to commit to a safer future, through education and prevention, for all children, young adults, and families in Bellevue.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue