

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-091**

Proclaiming October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- A. Domestic violence is a complex and pervasive problem in our community that affects individuals across economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal lines. Domestic violence is not just physical, it can include emotional, mental, and financial abuse.
- B. One in four women and one in seven men aged 18 and older in the United States have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- C. One in fifteen children are exposed to domestic violence every year and between 30 and 60 percent of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home. Exposure to domestic violence harms children and places them at risk of experiencing further violence.
- D. Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among families in the United States and is a significant contributing factor to unemployment and poverty. Nearly 8 million days of paid work each year is lost due to domestic violence issues – the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs.
- E. Although domestic violence can affect anyone, the impact is not uniform. Survivors from marginalized groups, including individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, older adults, and women of color experience disproportionate rates of domestic violence. These disproportionate impacts are often a direct result of systemic barriers, inequities and inherent racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, ageism, and other oppressions in our service systems.
- F. Challenges that disproportionately affect communities of color in general -- poverty, lack of access to educational opportunities, limited job resources, language barriers, fear of deportation, inadequate culturally responsive and linguistically competent services -- are especially limiting and harmful for women of color experiencing violence. Efforts to prevent and respond to domestic violence must be informed by an equity lens, and be responsive to disparities experienced by survivors in Multnomah County.
- G. The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges in our system's response to domestic violence. An overall increase in frequency and severity of domestic violence in the wake of

the pandemic have pushed our system to increase collaboration, and come up with innovative solutions to help survivors maintain access to critical services.

- H. Multnomah County is a leader in addressing domestic violence through its prevention, public safety, and health and human services programs. Our cross-sector collaboration stretches across housing, criminal justice, law enforcement, community-based services, and more, ensuring that survivors receive holistic services that address their unique needs.
- I. Multnomah County is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity and self-determination of those who have been harmed by domestic violence, safeguarding the wellbeing of children who have been impacted by domestic and sexual violence, and providing appropriate intervention and accountability with domestic violence offenders.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

- 1. October 2020 to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.
- 2. We urge all Multnomah County residents to actively work towards the elimination of domestic violence by supporting and believing survivors and promoting healthy, respectful relationships.

**ADOPTED this 22nd day of October, 2020.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY: Alix Sanchez, Senior Manager Multnomah County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office**