

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 55

Proclaiming April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

A. April 2026 marks 25 years of national recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) — we take this year to honor 25 years of progress and recommit to creating safer communities for all. This year's theme, "25 Years Strong: Looking Back, Moving Forward," celebrates the resilience of survivors and the communities that have worked for change. 25 years recognizing how communities have supported survivors, raised awareness, and inspired action to prevent sexual assault, abuse, and harassment. As we reflect on how far we have come, we also recognize the work that lies ahead.

B. We acknowledge that sexual violence is a complex and pervasive problem in our community that affects individuals and families across economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal lines.

C. Although sexual violence can affect anyone, the impact is not uniform. Survivors from historically oppressed populations, including individuals with disabilities, members of LGBTQI2S+ communities, immigrants, older adults, and women of color experience disproportionate rates of sexual 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. Recent and ongoing federal funding cuts threaten to further widen these inequities, leaving communities most impacted by violence with fewer resources and support.

D. The 2026 CDC report states that within Oregon, 57% of women and 15% of men experience sexual violence within their lifetime, a higher rate for women than the national average.

E. The 2025 Multnomah County Point in Time Count reported that 56% of people counted reported being houseless due to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking. Of those survivors, 43% identified as a member of a marginalized community.

F. Multnomah County is committed to supporting the safety, dignity and self-determination of those who have been harmed by sexual violence. In 2023, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved funding for the creation and implementation of the Unified Sexual Assault Hospital Response. Unified Response is a collaboration of six community based organizations: UNICA, Slavic Oregon Social Services (SOSS), Native American Youth and Family Center Healing Circle (NAYA), VOA Oregon Home Free, Call to Safety and Immigrant

and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). Unified Response organizations provide confidential advocacy and support to survivors when a sexual assault has occurred, and follow-up advocacy and resources. Unified Response organizations are able to offer culturally and linguistically responsive services when requested.

G. In 2025, the first full year of Unified Response services, sexual assault advocates responded to 400 calls at 12 area hospitals, providing confidential support during sexual assault medical exams and follow up resources and advocacy. Unified Response is an example of a significant and meaningful systemic change that was made to meet the unique needs of sexual assault survivors in Multnomah County.

H. In this and in a multitude of ways, we are demonstrating our commitment to continuously working toward a future where all community members and their families can find safety and stability in Multnomah County.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

April 2026 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Multnomah County. We urge all Multnomah County residents to actively work towards the prevention and elimination of sexual violence by believing and supporting survivors. Every voice matters. Every action counts. By standing in solidarity, we can build a future free from sexual violence and create a community where everyone is safe, valued and respected.

ADOPTED this 1st day of April, 2026.



REVIEWED:
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By
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