



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, domestic violence affects all New Yorkers, and far too many people suffer abuse at the hands of a spouse, partner, parent, child or sibling; these victims can be of any age, race, religion, or economic status and the resulting damage is inflicted not only on victims, but their children, families and communities; and

Whereas, the documented instances of domestic violence are merely a small representation of the breadth of the problem, yet even these are staggering: within a one year period in New York State, 400,000 people called the police because of a domestic incident, 43% of female murder victims were killed by their intimate partner, and courts issued 205,799 orders of protection; and

Whereas, we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of both the NYS Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act and the federal Violence Against Women Act, passage of groundbreaking laws continues, with legislation signed into law this year to prohibit discrimination against domestic violence victims in employment practices and a comprehensive Governor's Domestic Violence Bill signed into law, establishing improved training and procedures to ensure better custody and visitation decisions, instituting new measures to hold abusers accountable, and creating a new avenue for victims of certain sexual assault crimes to secure an order of protection; and

Whereas, New York State's commitment to ending domestic violence is also exemplified in the work of its state agencies through: the implementation of domestic violence and the workplace policies which protect employees; increased collaboration between criminal justice agencies to hold offenders accountable; and unprecedented agency coordination across all disciplines to establish annual data and trends, in addition to the daily efforts of agencies that are committed to working with those who respond to and assist victims; and

Whereas, New York State recognizes the importance of a comprehensive and coordinated community response, such as the work of local task forces and advisory councils, family justice centers, civil legal services and integrated domestic violence courts; essential components of the State's response to domestic violence also includes New York's outstanding domestic violence service providers which served nearly 58,000 victims and children in 2008; and

Whereas, despite the current economic challenges, New York State continues to take decisive steps in developing and strengthening policies and laws to hold domestic violence offenders accountable and to support and assist victims and their children, through our legal, law enforcement, human services, education and healthcare systems; our State also remains dedicated to increasing the public's knowledge of domestic violence through the dissemination of informational materials in our communities and through collaborative efforts such as the State's annual "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" initiative, which connects communities across the State by turning New York purple in October to raise awareness about domestic violence and the resources available to victims and their families; and

Whereas, New Yorkers join with all Americans in supporting victims of domestic violence and the worthy goals of this month-long observance and we likewise support the work of public and private entities that strive to provide the best response to domestic violence in statewide communities, therefore sending a loud and clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in our State;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i b e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-third day of September in the year two thousand nine.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Lawrence Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor