State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, domestic violence impacts countless New Yorkers, without regard to age, race, religion, or economic status; as victims suffer at the hands of a spouse or partner, it affects their children, families, and entire communities; and

Whereas, almost 300,000 calls were made to domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines in New York State in 2013; New York State courts report nearly 210,000 orders of protection that were required to be entered in the Domestic Violence Registry; 31,000 of the assaults reported to police agencies outside of New York City were committed by intimate partners; strangulation, a particularly intimate form of violence, was charged more than 12,000 times in the State; and

Whereas, New York State's criminal justice and health and human services agencies are strongly committed to ending domestic violence, as exemplified by efforts including: the continuation of a team that provides an in-depth analysis of domestic violence deaths or near deaths with the goal of helping to prevent similar outcomes in the future, the development of webinars for healthcare professionals, and delivery of training to thousands of professionals including law enforcement officers, judges, child welfare workers and more; and

Whereas, New Yorkers rely on the state's outstanding network of domestic violence programs to provide a range of essential services, including, in 2013, residential services to more than 15,000 victims, over half of whom were children, and non-residential services to nearly 42,000 victims; and

Whereas, New York State acknowledges that awareness and education are critical components of prevention and therefore strives to increase the public's knowledge of domestic violence by producing a set of videos and public service announcements promoting bystander intervention, collaborating on initiatives such as the state's annual "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" campaign, developing new initiatives to reach older adults, enhancing resources for college campuses regarding dating abuse, sexual assault and stalking, producing informational materials, and continually increasing and enhancing outreach through social media; and

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

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2014 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth day of September in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor