



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State is committed to the well-being and protection of our youth, the safety of our communities, and to fostering a society based upon mutual respect for one another – with zero tolerance for any forms of victimization and abuse; and

**Whereas**, teen dating violence is a serious crime that can involve physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic, or other abusive behavior, including harassment and cyberbullying via texting, emailing, instant messaging, or posting on social media; and

**Whereas**, women who are 16 to 24 years in age are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate of nearly triple the national average; and

**Whereas**, one in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner – a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence; one in ten high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped, or physically harmed by a boyfriend or girlfriend; one in ten teens reported sexual victimization from a dating partner; and one in four teens in a relationship report their boyfriend or girlfriend isolating them from all friends and family; and

**Whereas**, young people who have been victimized by an abusive dating partner can experience serious negative effects to their physical and emotional health and are more likely to be depressed, develop low self-esteem, perform poorly in school, engage in risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, and contemplate or attempt suicide; and

**Whereas**, while dating violence affects teens across all races, genders, religions, nationalities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses, it disproportionately affects lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, who experience rates of intimate partner violence that are almost twice as high as the rates for heterosexual youth; transgender youth report even higher rates of victimization and dating violence than their heterosexual peers; and

**Whereas**, parents and guardians of victims of dating abuse are often unaware of the problem: studies show that only 33 percent of teens in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the behavior and 81 percent of parents responded either that teen dating abuse is not an issue or that they did not know whether it is an issue; and

**Whereas**, New York State, through its Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, provides educational information about teen dating violence and its harmful effects, and will launch a month-long #NotJustPhysical social media campaign to raise awareness of this issue among adults in teens' lives and to share resources that can help prevent it from happening;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2019 as

## TEEN DATING ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth  
day of January in the year two thousand nineteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa