

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2023 Sample Proclamation**

A proclamation from your local government can be a great way to raise awareness and educate your local school board members, city council members or other elected officials about the importance of addressing domestic violence. It also provides them with an opportunity to show their support. If you’ve never worked with your local government on a proclamation before, don’t worry, it’s easy to get started! You can reach out to your local elected official either by phone or email, and explain to them:

* who you are and what you do;
* that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM);
* some brief information about the prevalence of domestic violence and the great work of local domestic violence programs; and
* that you are hoping they will introduce a resolution recognizing the month.

You can share the template proclamation below with them, making it even easier for them to create one.

You can also attend your local city council or school board meeting in September to inform them that DVAM is coming up soon, and encourage them to formally recognize the month and join in your awareness activities. Be sure to bring information about events happening in the community! During October, you can attend the meeting to receive the proclamation and share more information about DVAM activities.

If your proclamation passes, please tag the Partnership on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/cpedvcoalition) along with [your legislators](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uTWKc_3dpbA_WKG3pO4TyVnel7FuRSnRgDRrJczA5HI/edit#gid=0). We can share the good news on social media!

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Whereas October is annually recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month;

Whereas although progress has been made toward preventing and ending domestic violence and providing support to survivors and their families, important work remains to be done;

Whereas policymakers and communities must work together to transform the conditions that cause domestic violence and support survivor-centered solutions;

Whereas domestic violence programs in California provide essential, lifesaving services for survivors, their children, and communities;

Whereas there is a need to provide education, awareness and understanding of domestic violence and its causes;

Whereas there is a need to support and amplify prevention programs and community-based strategies to create healthy environments and decrease the likelihood of perpetration, thereby stopping domestic violence from occurring in the first place

Whereas there is a need to focus on the individualized needs of domestic violence survivors;

Whereas approximately 35% of California women and 31% of California men experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes;

Whereas California has higher rates of domestic violence experienced by both men and women when compared to the national average; [[1]](#endnote-2)

Whereas women 18-24 years of age are significantly more likely to be survivors of physical intimate partner violence than women in other age groups;[[2]](#endnote-3)

Whereas domestic violence affects people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, racial, ethnic, cultural, social, religious, and economic groups in the United States and here in California;

Whereas the marginalization of certain groups in society, including undocumented individuals, transgender individuals, and people living with disabilities, increases their vulnerability to domestic violence;

Whereas, approximately 4 out of every 10 non-Hispanic Black women, 4 out of every 10 American Indian or Alaska Native women, and 1 in 2 multiracial non-Hispanic women have been the victim of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. These rates are 30%-50% higher than those experienced by Hispanic, White non-Hispanic women and Asian or Pacific non-Hispanic women.[[3]](#endnote-4)

Whereas, according to the American Psychological Association, women with disabilities have a 40 percent greater risk of intimate partner violence than women without disabilities.[[4]](#endnote-5)

Whereas 54% of transgender and gender non-conforming people have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime.[[5]](#endnote-6)

Whereas domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families in the United States[[6]](#endnote-7).

Whereas domestic violence has a significant economic impact on women, throughout the country, an estimated 8 million days of paid work is lost because of domestic violence lose 8 million paid work days each year as the result of intimate partner violence. Domestic violence costs $8.3 billion in expenses annually: a combination of higher medical costs ($5.8 billion) and lost productivity ($2.5 billion).[[7]](#endnote-8)

Whereas children exposed to domestic violence can experience long-term consequences including difficulty at school, substance abuse, behavioral problems in adolescence, and serious adult health problems;[[8]](#endnote-9)

Whereas, recognizing the need to understand the complexity of violence as perpetuated within communities and against communities, and the fear of many survivors to report to law enforcement;

Whereas in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 domestic violence shelter programs served 13,370 individuals in shelters and served 54,521 individuals through non-shelter supportive services;[[9]](#endnote-10)

Whereas there were 84 domestic violence related homicides in California in 2022, of which 63 of the fatalities were female and 21 were male[[10]](#endnote-11)

Whereas all survivors deserve access to culturally responsive programs and services to increase their safety and self-sufficiency;

Whereas all communities deserve access to culturally responsive prevention programs and initiatives to improve overall community health and safety by challenging the societal norms that perpetuate violence;

Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recognizes the vital role that all Californians can play in preventing and one day ending domestic violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recognizes October 2023, and each following October, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

1. Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. Weinbaum, Z., Stratton, T., Roberson, S., Takahashi, E., & Fatheree, M. (2006). Women experiencing intimate partner violence, California, 1998-2002. In Weinbaum, Z. & Thorfinnson, T. (eds.) Women’s Health: Findings from the California Women’s Health Survey, 1997-2003. California Department of Health Services, Office of Women’s Health. Sacramento, California, May 2006. Chapter 12 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Summary Report. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, Atlanta, GA, and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. American Psychological Association, “Abuse of Women with Disabilities”, <http://www.apa.org/topics/violence/women-disabilities.aspx> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
5. 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey <https://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/USTS-Full-Report-FINAL.PDF> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
6. “Domestic Violence”, National Alliance to End Homelessness, <http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/domestic_violence> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
7. Pearl, Robert, “Domestic Violence: The Secret Killer that Costs $8.3 billion Annually,” http://www.forbes.com/sites/robertpearl/2013/12/05/domestic-violence-the-secret-killer-that-costs-8-3-billion-annually/#3463aa923c13 [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
8. “Intimate Partner Violence”, National Child Traumatic Stress Network, <http://www.nctsn.org/content/children-and-domestic-violence> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
9. 2023 Cal OES Joint Legislative Budget Committee Report, <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Grants/Documents/2023_JLBC.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
10. "Homicide in California 2022." California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center: 2023. <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/Homicide%20In%20CA%202022f.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-11)