

**2023 Sample Proclamation for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**

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 teen dating violence. It also provides them with an opportunity to show your 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 February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month;
* some brief information about the prevalence of adolescent dating abuse 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, making it even easier for them to create one.

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

**➜ Access the proclamation on the next page.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Resolution No. \_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Resolution No. \_\_\_\_—Relative to Teen Dating

Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

*Summary*

 *\_\_\_\_. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. This measure would designate the month of February 2023 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that promote healthy teen relationships and raise awareness about teen dating violence in their communities.*

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence, also known as dating abuse, is a serious and growing problem throughout California; and

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence intervention and prevention programs can help to ensure a positive school climate and safe learning environment for all youth ages 12 to 24; and

WHEREAS, Education and outreach programs to community members address warning signs of teen dating violence among youth before behaviors escalate, and protect the safety of targeted youth; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendations for a comprehensive primary prevention program, multiple strategies are required such as teaching safe and healthy relationship skills, engaging influential adults and peers, disrupting the developmental pathways toward partner violence, creating protective environments, strengthening economic supports for families, and supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harm[[1]](#endnote-1); and

WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated 1 in 12 high school students is physically hurt on purpose by a dating partner;[[2]](#endnote-2) and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships, 1 in 3 adolescents report verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual dating abuse each year;[[3]](#endnote-3) and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children suffer exposure to violence at rates higher than any other race in the United States[[4]](#endnote-4); and

WHEREAS, According to the American Psychological Association, one in three teens ages 14 to 20 have experienced dating abuse and about the same number say they have committed dating abuse themselves;[[5]](#endnote-5) and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 11 female teens and 1 in 15 male teens reported experiencing physical violence in the last year;[[6]](#endnote-6) and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 9 female teens and 1 in 36 male teens reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the last year;[[7]](#endnote-7) and

WHEREAS, 43% of LGB teens reported experiencing physical dating violence, compared to 29% of heterosexual youth;[[8]](#endnote-8) and

WHEREAS, 59% of LGB teens reported emotional abuse, compared to 46% of heterosexual youth;[[9]](#endnote-9) and

WHEREAS, 50% of Transgender youth reported experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lives;[[10]](#endnote-10) and

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence has been linked to other forms of violence and aggression against peers, including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and physical violence; and

WHEREAS, Survivors of teen dating violence have increased risk for truancy, dropout, teen pregnancy, suicide, having eating disorders, and engaging in other harmful behaviors such as use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;[[11]](#endnote-11) and

WHEREAS, Nearly half of students who experience dating violence have reported that some of the abuse took place on school grounds;[[12]](#endnote-12) and

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WHEREAS, Youth who are survivors in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college, and adolescent perpetrators of dating violence are more likely to abuse their intimate partners as adults;[[13]](#endnote-13) and

WHEREAS, The establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of California,* That the Legislature proclaims the month of February 2023 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature calls upon the people of California, including schools, community groups, families, and youth to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with programs and activities that raise awareness about the dynamics of teen dating violence and support youth in learning the skills to have safe and healthy relationships.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Intimate Partner Violence: Prevention Strategies”, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/prevention.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html#:~:text=Teen%20dating%20violence%20is%20common.&text=About%201%20in%2012%20experienced,12%20experienced%20sexual%20dating%20violence. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Liz Claiborne Inc and The Family Fund. “Teen Dating Abuse 2009 Key Topline Findings.” <http://nomore.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/teen_dating_abuse_2009_key_topline_findings-1.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. “Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence: Ending Violence so Children Can Thrive,” <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/defendingchildhood/pages/attachments/2014/11/24/aian_executive_summary.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. National Rates of Adolescent Physical, Psychological, and Sexual Teen-Dating Violence,” Michele Ybarra PhD, MPH, Center for Innovative Public Health Research; Dorothy L. Espelage, PhD University of Illinois at Urbana-Champagne; Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD, University of South Alabama; Josephine D. Korchmaros, PhD, University of Arizona; Danah Boyd, PhD, New York University; and Kathleen Basile, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Preventing Teen Violence,” <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Preventing Teen Violence,” <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Dank, M., Lachman, P., Zweig, J.M. & Yahner, J. Dating Violence Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth. In Press: Journal of Youth and Adolescence. On-line at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10964-013-9975-8> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Dank, M., Lachman, P., Zweig, J.M. & Yahner, J. Dating Violence Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth. In Press: Journal of Youth and Adolescence. On-line at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10964-013-9975-8> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Silverman, J.G., Raj, A., Mucci, L.A., & Hathaway, J.E. 2001. Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality. Journal of the American Medical Association 286 (5): 572-579 [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Molidor, C., Tolman, R. Gender and Contextual Factors in Adolescent Dating Violence. Violence Against Women. Vol. 4 No. 2, April 1998, 180-194 [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Smith PH, White JW, Holland LJ. (2003). A longitudinal perspective on dating violence among adolescent and college-age women. American Journal of Public Health; 93(7):1104–1109 [↑](#endnote-ref-13)