

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; whether it is in the workplace, in our schools, within our social circles, or in the home, sexual violence is pervasive in our state and our country, harming people and communities across Wisconsin; and

*WHEREAS*; according to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, one in three women, one in six men, and nearly half of transgender adults in our state will experience sexual violence at some point in their lives; and

*WHEREAS*; approximately one in 10 children in the United States will be sexually abused before the age of 18, and sexual harassment and assault remain pervasive issues on college campuses nationwide, with one in five women and one in 16 men experiencing sexual assault during their time in college; and

*WHEREAS*; we recognize that members of the LGBTQ community experience higher rates of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers; and

*WHEREAS*; we also recognize that Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence, and have long experienced harm by systemic responses that are rooted in racism; and

*WHEREAS*; it is clear that we cannot end sexual violence without ending racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of interpersonal and institutionalized oppression, and our state commends the BIPOC-led organizations, in particular, that have been at the forefront of the anti-sexual violence movement for decades; and

*WHEREAS*; as technology has evolved to become a major part of our everyday lives, we are reminded that sexual violence can happen anywhere, including in online spaces, and that for too long, harassment, bullying, and other forms of sexual violence have come to be expected as typical and unavoidable behaviors online; and

*WHEREAS*; the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "Building Safe Online Spaces Together," encourages folks to create online communities centered around respect, inclusion, and safety, where sexual violence is taken seriously; and

*WHEREAS*; this month, the state of Wisconsin honors and joins all victims and survivors of sexual violence, advocates, and dedicated organizations across our state in raising awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence, educating communities on how to prevent it, and calling on corporate leaders and policy makers to implement and enforce systems and laws that ensure justice and accountability;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

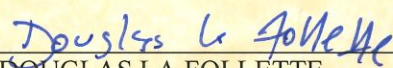
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State