

WHEREAS; violence against women and girls continues to be one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide, resulting in serious short-term and long-term physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health challenges for millions of women and girls; and

WHEREAS; violence against women and girls impacts individuals of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds, both in peacetime and during times of conflict; and

WHEREAS; gender-based violence is a global epidemic and can take many forms, including the systemic use of physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, psychological, and economic control to violate an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity; and

WHEREAS; the World Health Organization estimates that 30 percent of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, and according to UNICEF, approximately one in 10 girls under the age of 20 have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts; and

WHEREAS; the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reports that at least 12 million girls are married before the age of 18 each year; and

WHEREAS; elder abuse—which occurs when a trusted caregiver or adult knowingly harms an older adult through physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, and/or financial abuse—also predominantly affects women; and

WHEREAS; according to UN Women, the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated violence against women and girls by placing a strain on essential services such as domestic violence shelters and helplines, underscoring the importance of addressing gender-based violence in pandemic response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS; Zonta International is a leading global organization with more than 27,000 members in clubs across 63 countries working to end gender-based violence and make gender equality a reality for women and girls everywhere; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins the Zonta Club of Madison and Zonta clubs around the world in working to change gender-based attitudes and behaviors and to end violence against women and girls worldwide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 25 through December 10, 2021, as

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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 19th day of November 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State