

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, In King County, 7,152 adults and children received specialized assistance from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims in 2020; and

WHEREAS, While sexual assault is but two words, it has a plethora of definitions; not only rape and molestation but also coercion, human trafficking, and harassment, to name a few. It is not only physical abuse, but mentally and emotionally damaging; and

WHEREAS, Rape is among the most underreported crimes for reasons that include victim's fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within systems designed to support them. Additional barriers, such as language, immigration status, gender bias, and systemic racism further oppress and silence victims; and

WHEREAS, Individual and community impacts of sexual violence are rooted in and compounded by racial, gender, sexual orientation and other forms of oppression. Black, Indigenous and other people of color; people living in poverty; LGBTQ people; elders; people with disabilities and other people targeted by oppression are affected by sexual violence in significant and complex ways; and

WHEREAS, Statewide, 29% of the survivors who were supported by a community sexual assault organization identified as Black, Indigenous and people of color in 2019. Of those identifying ethnicity, 21% identified as Latinx/Hispanic;

WHEREAS, King County is home to many organizations that provide culturally- and linguistically-specific services for survivors from various racial, ethnic, faith, and cultural communities, survivors who are immigrants and refugees, survivors who are LGBTQ, and survivors with disabilities.

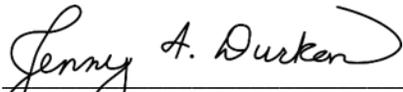
These culturally-specific services are critical to effectively respond to the specific needs and barriers many survivors face; and

WHEREAS, Negative impacts of sexual violence trauma on women, men, children and youth include fear, concern for safety, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; and

WHEREAS, Working together as a community, we can alleviate the trauma of sexual violence by ensuring supportive resources are available to all survivors, while standing up to harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual assault;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM APRIL 2021 TO BE

Sexual Assault Awareness Month



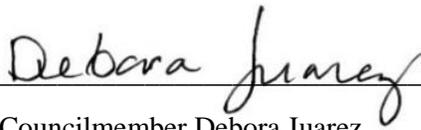
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



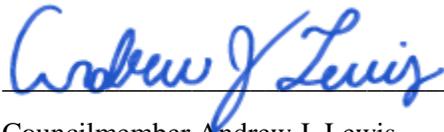
Council President M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



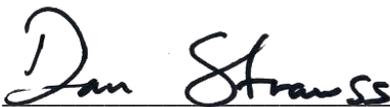
Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss