



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, domestic violence affects many New Yorkers regardless of age, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic status, causing seen and unseen harm to adults, children, and entire families that impacts the communities in which they live and work; and

**Whereas**, New York State is committed to advancing criminal justice, human services, and health care policies and initiatives designed to break the cycle of violence and enhance protections and services so victims can become survivors; and

**Whereas**, in 2015, nearly 252,000 calls were made to domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines in New York State, and New York State courts issued nearly 294,000 orders of protection that required entry in the Domestic Violence Registry; and

**Whereas**, in 2015, law enforcement agencies reported approximately 54,000 intimate partner victims of domestic violence; local probation departments witnessed a 21 percent increase in their caseloads from new Family Court cases, and 22 percent of individuals on parole were identified as having a history of domestic violence; and

**Whereas**, New York State recognizes the importance of access to quality health coverage for victims of domestic violence or spousal abandonment and their children and, to address possible disparities, this year the New York State Department of Financial Services created a new special insurance plan enrollment period which will permit victims to enroll at any time outside of the standard annual open enrollment period; this action will help break the cycle of violence and help victims gain the independence and assistance they need; and

**Whereas**, also this year, New York State revised its Domestic Incident Report so that law enforcement agencies are able to collect more detailed information to enhance investigations and domestic violence victims are connected with services to help them break the cycle of abuse; police officers are required by law to complete the report whenever they respond to a domestic incident call, regardless of whether they make an arrest, and this redesigned report will play a vital role in holding offenders accountable and providing victims with needed support and resources; and

**Whereas**, New York State leads the country by supporting a network of staff at all State agencies and authorities trained to respond to issues of domestic violence as it impacts the workplace, and funds, oversees, and supports community-based programs that provide residential services, non-residential services – such as counseling and advocacy – and transitional housing for victims and their children; and

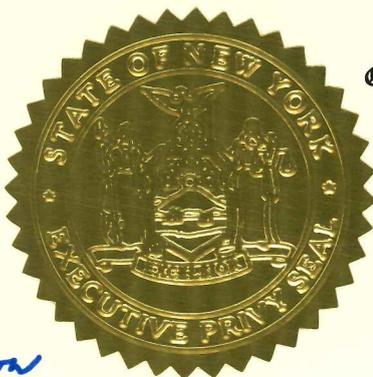
**Whereas**, New York State coordinates the Domestic Violence Fatality Review to respond to deaths resulting from domestic violence in an effort to improve the local and State criminal justice and human service response to domestic violence; and

**Whereas**, New York State's annual "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" campaign promotes awareness and encourages individuals to take action if they know someone who is affected by this crime; each October, this initiative is embraced by law enforcement agencies, businesses, municipalities, service providers, and others, and New Yorkers join with all Americans to support victims of domestic violence and those public and private entities that work to provide the best coordinated response to domestic violence in communities, sending a clear message to abusers that they will be held accountable for their actions and that domestic violence is not tolerated in New York;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2016 as

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth day of September in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

*Wesley J. Mahon*  
Secretary to the Governor