



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the scourge of domestic violence visits countless New Yorkers, with no regard to age, race, religion, or economic status, and as victims suffer at the hand of a spouse or dating partner, it affects their children, families and entire communities; and

Whereas, unfortunately there are a large number of cases of domestic violence known to the system, these figures still offer only a glimpse of the overall problem: almost 390,000 calls were made to domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines in New York State in 2010; the number of orders of protection issued by New York State courts in 2010 increased 6% from 2009 and 34% from 2007; and, more than 29,000 of the assaults reported to police agencies outside of New York City were committed by intimate partners; and

Whereas, new laws expand the State's ability to provide protection and needed services for domestic violence victims and their families and a new law allowing New York State to report certain domestic violence convictions to a national database will help prevent abusers from legally purchasing guns – a critical measure since firearms were used in 26% of domestic homicides statewide in 2010 (42% outside of New York City); the 2009 law establishing the crime of strangulation has also proven to be a formidable tool, resulting in charges at the rate of 800 per month; and

Whereas, New York State's criminal justice and health and human services agencies are strongly committed to ending domestic violence, as exemplified by efforts including: an enhanced response by criminal justice supervisory agencies, screening for domestic violence in substance abuse treatment facilities, increased payments of compensation and assistance to victims of domestic violence, and the development of new tools and training for law enforcement professionals; and

Whereas, New Yorkers rely on the state's outstanding network of domestic violence programs to provide a range of essential services, including, in 2010, residential services to over 15,500 victims, over half of whom were children and providing non-residential services to over 47,000 victims; and statewide and local community partners helped to protect the safety and rights of victims, including the efforts of law enforcement, the courts, civil legal services providers and numerous other professionals who offered support and assistance to victims and their children; and

Whereas, New York State acknowledges that awareness and education are critical components of prevention and therefore strives to increase the public's knowledge of domestic violence by collaborating on initiatives such as the State's annual "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" initiative which connects communities across the State by turning New York purple in October, developing new initiatives to reach teens and young adults, distributing informational materials, and continually increasing and enhancing outreach through social media; and

Whereas, New Yorkers join with all Americans in supporting victims of domestic violence and share the worthy goals of this month-long observance, and likewise support the work of public and private entities that strive to provide the best coordinated response to domestic violence in communities across this State, sending a loud and clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in our State;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2011 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-seventh day of September in the year two thousand eleven.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor