



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, sexual violence is a widespread, preventable problem; and*

*WHEREAS, sexual violence is any sexual act that is against someone's will, which includes sexual assault, rape, unwanted touching, threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism and verbal sexual harassment; and*

*WHEREAS, over 50% of women, and roughly one in three men, experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetimes. One incident of rape occurs every 68 seconds, and every nine minutes, that victim is a child; and*

*WHEREAS, these statistics do not represent the true prevalence of sexual violence due to underreporting; and*

*WHEREAS, sex offenders often target people they perceive as vulnerable, less powerful, or less credible. The offender is known to the victim in many cases; and*

*WHEREAS, the effects of sexual violence are felt for many years after the incident. Confusion, anger, sadness, shame, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness and self-blame are all common reactions to sexual violence; and*

*WHEREAS, you are entitled to free and confidential support from a crisis counselor. Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline or visit their website. For direct information from a service provider in our area, contact the Alabama Coalition Against Rape or visit their website; and*

*WHEREAS, our voices have power and should be used to support survivors, and together, we can end sexual violence by educating friends, family and community members about consent and other ways to prevent sexual violence before it occurs;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2025, as*

# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of  
Montgomery on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor