



PROCLAMATION

10/01/2010

**October 2010, as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month.”**

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by the

Governor of the State of California

Domestic violence affects millions of Americans each year without regard for ethnicity, age, race, sexual orientation or socioeconomic lines. The crime of domestic violence violates an individual’s rights, privacy, dignity and security, causing immense physical and emotional pain. This devastating cycle of abuse not only has a direct impact on the victim but also everyone around them.

Although the abuse is often hidden behind closed doors, it is one of the most prevalent crimes in the United States. One in four women has been abused. Domestic violence comes in many forms, both physical and psychological, but regardless of the type of abuse or the severity, domestic violence is never justified.

Fortunately, this horrible crime can be prevented. California is dedicated to educational programs that promote awareness and teach youths about healthy relationships.

We are taking steps to punish offenders and offer more support for victims. I am proud that our state has passed numerous laws which mandate stricter sentences for perpetrators. Throughout our state, there are countless organizations that give safe shelter to women and children in a time of need. I commend those who have demonstrated their commitment to helping victims by providing counseling services, crisis hotlines, and legal advocacy. California is dedicated to ending spousal battery as well as child and elder abuse.

During the month of October, I urge all Californians to take a stand against domestic violence. By raising awareness about this issue and the resources available to victims seeking to escape abuse, we can break the cycle of violence and save countless lives. In California we will continue our efforts to end the violence in our homes, schools and communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim October 2010, as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month.”

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 24th day of September 2010.

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Debra Bowen  
SECRETARY OF STATE