



**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 in 2020 from organizations with programming for sexual assault victims; and

**WHEREAS,** rape is among the most underreported crimes for reasons that include a victim’s fear of being disbelieved or further traumatized within systems designed to support them, and 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, and Black, Indigenous, 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 in 2019 identified as Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and of those identifying ethnicity, 21% identified as Latinx/Hispanic; and

**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, and 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, I, ANGELA BIRNEY,** Mayor of the City of Redmond, Washington, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

and ask Redmond residents to join advocates and communities throughout King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors, so that together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

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Angela Birney, Mayor

April 6, 2021

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Date

**City Hall**

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