



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, 2026 is the 25th anniversary of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the theme is 25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half (54%) of New Mexico residents report having been raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetime, with 40% of those experiencing their first assault before the age of 13; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 New Mexico Crime Victimization Survey revealed that in just one year, 11% of respondents were sexually assaulted, and 5% were raped incidents that often result in profound physical, emotional, and economic consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, children continue to be disproportionately impacted, with 47% of reported sexual assaults involving victims under the age of 18; and

**WHEREAS**, 40% of respondents in New Mexico reported being a victim of stalking, rape, sexual assault, or domestic violence in the past year, and nearly half of those affected said the experience negatively impacted their work or education; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico is leading the nation in demanding justice and transparency for the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein by launching a Truth Commission and conducting a long overdue property search; and

**WHEREAS**, in New Mexico, approximately 11 out of every 1,000 children were victims of substantiated abuse or neglect in 2022 a rate significantly higher than the national average and most of these cases involved neglect, which can profoundly impact a child's development and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, immigrant survivors of sexual assault and child abuse in New Mexico often confront unique challenges, including language barriers, cultural differences, and fear of deportation, which can hinder their access to essential support services; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc., in collaboration with community partners, provides critical services including trauma-informed advocacy, forensic medical care, prevention education, and support for underserved and rural communities; and

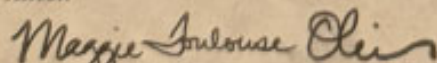
**WHEREAS**, April is an opportunity to raise awareness, honor survivors, promote prevention, and support those working to end sexual violence and child abuse in all its forms.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as:

## **"Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month"**

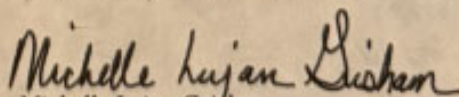
throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

  
Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal  
of the State of New Mexico.

  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

