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PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES WHITE RIBBON DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS**Statewide initiative encourages men to pledge to help end violence against women**

Governor Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Murray are joined by leaders from across the Commonwealth to pledge to help end violence against women and proclaim March 1, 2012 "White Ribbon Day" in Massachusetts. (Photo credit: Eric Haynes / Governor's Office). View additional [photos](#).

BOSTON – Thursday, March 1, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today issued a proclamation declaring March 1, 2012 as "White Ribbon Day" in Massachusetts at the 5th Annual White Ribbon Day celebration at the State House. Joined by Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray and leaders in elected office, higher education, businesses and communities across the Commonwealth, Governor Patrick read the proclamation and pledged that his Administration would be part of the solution in ending violence against women.

"I thank my wife, our First Lady Diane Patrick, and Lieutenant Governor Murray for their continued leadership and work alongside many advocates in communities across the state," said Governor Patrick. "We all have a role to play to end violence against all people and it will take the voices of each one of us, and many more, to make that happen as we work towards building a better Commonwealth for future generations."

In Massachusetts, White Ribbon Day is a statewide campaign led by Jane Doe, Inc., along with the Patrick-Murray Administration and advocacy organizations addressing sexual and domestic violence against women, men and children. Jane Doe, Inc. also partners with the Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Murray. Through the work of the council, interagency collaboration and cooperation is formed to build networks statewide to support victims and develop solutions to help end sexual and domestic violence in Massachusetts.

"Through the work of the council and initiatives like today, Massachusetts continues to build a coalition of supportive networks to help all victims of sexual assault and domestic violence," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "I am proud to stand with Governor Patrick and all men of the Commonwealth as we collectively pledge to not commit or condone violence against women. This pledge connects us to an international movement to engage men and boys to help end domestic violence."

Jane Doe Inc.'s Massachusetts White Ribbon Day recognizes the unique and critical role that men can and are playing to help end violence against women.

"By speaking up, men are breaking with the social norm of silence on these issues, a silence that in fact is collusion within our institutions and social practices that perpetuate and tolerate violence," said Craig Norberg-Bohm, coordinator of the men's initiative at Jane Doe Inc.

"We adopted the international White Ribbon Campaign here in Massachusetts because it is the story of the power and possibility of prevention: the story of men who are tired, outraged, angry and very frustrated at the level of violence against women and are making a private and public commitment to be part of the solution in ending it," said Mary R. Lauby, Executive Director of Jane Doe Inc.

For more information about the Governor's Advisory Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence, visit www.mass.gov/governor/ltgovernor.

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