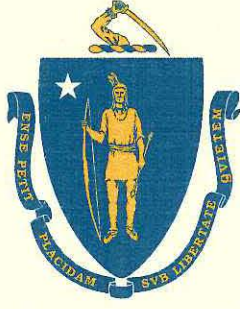


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

*Whereas, Violence against women and gender-based violence are human rights violations, and these abuses are obstacles to efforts for peace and gender equity in all societies around the world; and*

*Whereas, In 2016, there were eighteen documented incidents of domestic violence homicides, resulting in the murder of ten women and two men, plus five suicides by the perpetrators; and*

*Whereas, Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, 1,895 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health-funded Rape Crisis Centers and Llámmanos, the statewide Spanish language helpline; and*

*Whereas, Jane Doe Inc. launched this primary prevention campaign in Massachusetts to call upon all men and boys - regardless of age, race, religion, political affiliation, profession, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic - to make both a personal and public commitment to being part of the solution in ending violence against women and all gender-based violence; and*

*Whereas, The Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign invites us to reimagine the norms associated with manhood as valuing respect, compassion and non-violence as an antidote to the abuse of power in relationships and society; and*

*Whereas, Jane Doe Inc. organized the first statewide campaign in the nation in conjunction with the international White Ribbon Campaign that currently exists in over 60 countries; and*

*Whereas, Over 744 men in Massachusetts have already signed on as White Ribbon Day Ambassadors and over 115 organizations and communities have signed on as White Ribbon Day Affiliates; and*

*Whereas, Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hopes to encourage the adoption of practices and policies that support survivors, hold offenders accountable and prevent instances of violence,*

*Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, to be,*

## WHITE RIBBON DAY

*And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.*

*Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fifth day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.*

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

*God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*