



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, 1 in every 4 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime, and approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence offenses make up 51% of all Crimes Against Persons in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leaves a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, victims should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, victims of violence need access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

WHEREAS, it is battered women themselves who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring peace, equality, and healing to our homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and

WHEREAS, we must work to prevent domestic violence and to address its brutal and destructive effects; and

WHEREAS, citizens are encouraged to actively participate in activities and programs sponsored by local domestic violence and child advocacy centers across Tennessee;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2013 as

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of September, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Lyall in blue ink.

Secretary of State