



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, 1 in every 4 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime, 1 out of every 10 teenagers are physically hurt on purpose by someone they are dating, 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 legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse;

**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;

**WHEREAS**, it is domestic violence victims themselves who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring peace, equality, and healing to our homes and communities;

**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;

**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;

**WHEREAS**, our State must dedicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our society;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2015 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 eleventh day of August, 2015.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Wright*

Secretary of State