



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

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**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence, also called intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic abuse, or relationship abuse, is a pattern of abusive behaviors that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence can include physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and/or economic abuse or threats; and

**WHEREAS**, on an average, one in four females and one in seven males experience physical assault by their partners; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence every year; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence has led to the injury or death of numerous Virgin Islanders in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, ninety percent of children who are exposed to domestic violence are eyewitnesses to this violence; and

**WHEREAS**, children exposed to domestic violence are at a higher risk for failure in school, emotional disorders, substance abuse, and acting out violent behavior later in life; and

**WHEREAS**, the crisis of domestic violence is not limited to any group or groups of people, but it can be found across all economic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, education, or religious demographics; and

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

**WHEREAS**, victims should be able to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be held accountable for their actions; and

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

**WHEREAS**, victims of domestic violence, and survivors and their families are encouraged to seek assistance from the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, or the Family Resource Center of St. Thomas and St. John; and

**WHEREAS**, through awareness, support structures, and collaboration, safer communities can be built, and the cycle of violence can be broken.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the Authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **proclaim the month of October 2022**, as "*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*" in the United States Virgin Islands. I call upon all residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands to practice actions that foster healthy relationships at home and in our community, to participate in the activities scheduled for the month and beyond, and to work towards the elimination of domestic violence throughout the Territory.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Christiansted, St. Croix, the Virgin Islands this 28 day of September, A.D. 2022.



  
Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor

Attest:

  
Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.  
Lieutenant Governor