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# Proclamation

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month — a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it. Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault are widespread problems. We know that, in the United States alone, nearly one in five women and one in sixty-seven men have been raped at some time in their lives (Smith et al., 2017), and that one in six boys and one in four girls is sexually abused before the age of 18 (Dube et al., 2005).

**WHEREAS**, sexual harassment, assault, and abuse happen in all communities — and that includes online spaces. We are spending more and more of our lives online — whether that's for work, school, or entertainment. Unfortunately, with this increase in virtual connection comes an increase in online abuse and harassment. Consent and boundaries can be violated online in a number of ways, and the trauma of online abuse is all too real for many survivors.

**WHEREAS**, but each of us has the power to change that. We can all make a difference to ensure that our online communities are safe and respectful for everyone.

**WHEREAS**, 2022 marks the twenty-first (21st) anniversary of SAAM, and the theme of this year's campaign is Building Safe Online Spaces Together. The campaign calls on us to practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content and behaviors, and promote online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety.

**WHEREAS**, I join advocates and communities across the country in preventing online abuse. Together, we can build safe online spaces now and into the future.

**NOW THEREFORE** I, Rhonda Stell, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Johnson City, do hereby proclaim April 2022, as

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

and call upon all citizens to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the City of Johnson City, Texas to be affixed.

**ATTEST:**

Rhonda Stell, Mayor  
City of Johnson City, Texas

Whitney Walston, City Secretary

Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Whitfield, C. L., Brown, D. W., Felitti, V. J., Dong, M., & Giles, W. H. (2005). Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28(5), 430–438. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2005.01.015>

Smith, S. G., Chen, J., Basile, K. C., Gilbert, L. K., Merrick, M. T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>





# Proclamation

## Denim Day

**WHEREAS**, the month of April is national Sexual Assault Awareness Month calling attention to the fact that sexual assault and harassment is widespread and harms our community; and

**WHEREAS**, every two minutes, someone in America is sexually assaulted, and approximately 1 in 5 women and 1 in 33 men are raped during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, about 75% of harassment victims experience retaliation when they report it; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denim Day movement is a worldwide effort that started as a grassroots protest against an Italian Supreme Court decision in which a sexual assault conviction was overturned because the victim was wearing tight jeans at the time of the attack; and

**WHEREAS**, Denim Day encourages everyone to stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence and speak up when they hear comments that blame victims or make light of sexual harassment and assault; and

**WHEREAS**, together, when we change how we think and talk about this issue, we can create a culture of respect, equality, and safety for our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, with proper education on the matter and comprehensive prevention projects, sexual violence and its unfair and traumatizing effects are preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Johnson City strongly supports the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center and their efforts to heal victims, educate and train the community, and stop sexual violence before its starts,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the City of Johnson City, Texas does hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 27, 2022 as Denim Day and urges the community to wear jeans on Denim Day to help spread awareness about the physical and emotional trauma that accompanies sexual assault and to show our support to survivors in our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the City of Johnson City, Texas to be affixed.

**ATTEST:**

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Rhonda Stell, Mayor  
City of Johnson City, Texas

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Whitney Walston, City Secretary

