



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Zonta Club of the Coos Bay Area, having been in continuous existence since 1953, is a member of Zonta International, District 8, and recognizes the crime of violence against women and girls:

- continues to be the most pervasive human rights violation and a global epidemic, and
- is due to systemic use of physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse, and
- does not know any national nor cultural barriers, affecting millions of women and girls of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds, in peacetime and conflict, and
- violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, and
- results in serious short-term and long-term physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates one in three or 30% of all women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, according to UNICEF "around 120 million girls under the age of 20 worldwide (about one in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts"; and

WHEREAS, more than 650 million women alive today were married as children and 12 million girls are married before the age of 18 each year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime "the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation"; and

WHEREAS, Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals with more than 26,000 members in 63 countries working together to make gender equality a worldwide reality for women and girls and has contributed to help achieve a world free of violence against women and girls for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, during the 16 Days of Activism, 25 November-10 December, the Zonta Club of the Coos Bay Area along with all Zonta clubs, is encouraged to take part in the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and to take local, national, and international actions to influence the making and implementation of laws, as well as changing gender-based attitudes and behaviors to end violence against women; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Joe Benetti, Mayor of the City of Coos Bay do hereby acknowledge and proclaim December 10, 2023, as

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Day

in Coos Bay and encourage all residents to join with Zonta to prevent gender-based violence by educating themselves and the community on its harm, advocating for survivors of gender-based violence and acting in service on their behalf.

In witness thereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Coos Bay to be affixed on this 5th day of December 2023.

Joe Benetti, Mayor