



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the month of April 2019 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia, and to urge residents to show their support for victim-survivors and work to prevent sexual assault, abuse, and harassment.

WHEREAS, women’s organized protests against sexual violence began in the late 1970s in England with ‘Take Back the Night’ marches in direct response to the violence that women encountered as they walked the streets at night;

WHEREAS, in 1978, the first “Take Back the Night” events in the United States were held in San Francisco and New York City;

WHEREAS, the movement that developed in the United States was also created in the wake of the civil rights movement which was buoyed by Black women’s activism to disrupt the persistent and systemic sexual violence that they experienced;

WHEREAS, the month of April has been designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States and was first observed nationally in April 2001, after the alarming statistics of sexual assaults and underreporting became more apparent;

WHEREAS, sexual assault awareness activities have expanded to include the issue of sexual violence against men and men’s participation in ending sexual violence;

WHEREAS, sexual assault awareness includes prevention and advocacy efforts to address varying forms of sexual violence including childhood sexual abuse, sexual harassment, human trafficking and rape;

WHEREAS, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, sex trafficking reports or supports have been the highest human trafficking need for hotline callers since 2012;

WHEREAS, according to the Administration for Children and Families, racial and ethnic minorities, communities exposed to multigenerational trauma, individuals with a history of substance abuse, runaways, homeless youth, the poor, children in the child welfare system as well

47 as those with a history of sexual abuse are identified as some of the groups most vulnerable to
48 human trafficking;

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50 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
51 (NCMEC), of the more than 23,500 endangered runaways reported to NCMEC in 2018, one in
52 seven were likely victims of child sex trafficking;

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54 WHEREAS, according to research conducted by World Without Exploration, between
55 33% and 84% of victims of commercial sexual exploitation are survivors of childhood sexual
56 abuse. The prevalence of childhood sexual abuse in samples of victims of commercial sexual
57 exploitation is 3x to 9x higher than that of the general population;

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59 WHEREAS, 30.8% of sex trafficking victims age 12-18 had a history of sexual violence;

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61 WHEREAS, 87% of youth involved in commercial sexual exploitation coupled with a
62 history of sexual abuse are runaways;

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64 WHEREAS, 68% of adolescents that were victims of commercial sexual exploitation
65 were sexually abused in childhood;

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67 WHEREAS, 7.8 years is the average age of sexual victimization to begin for girls in the
68 sex trade;

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70 WHEREAS, according to the FBI, almost 53% of all juvenile prostitution arrests involve
71 black children;

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73 WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia, black girls in their teens and twenties were the
74 largest proportion of trafficking victims in 2016;

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76 WHEREAS, 44% of women engaged in street prostitution in the District of Columbia
77 reported unwanted sexual contact as children;

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79 WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia, 44% of sex-trade involved women had been
80 raped while in the sex trade, 60% of those rapes were committed by customers;

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82 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization
83 Survey, every 98 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted;

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85 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's National
86 Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, one out of every five women has been the victim-
87 survivor of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime;

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89 WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, nearly 3 million
90 men in the United States have been the victim-survivors of sexual assault or rape;

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92 WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, girls 16 to 19
93 years of age are four times more likely than the general population to be victim-survivors of
94 rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault;

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96 WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network women aged 18
97 to 24 who are not in college are four times more likely to have experienced sexual violence than
98 women in general;

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100 WHEREAS, sexual violence exists on a spectrum of behaviors ranging from verbal
101 harassment to sexual assault, it is imperative to recognize that sexual harassment in the workplace
102 is a pervasive yet often overlooked manifestation of sexual violence;

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104 WHEREAS, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Task Force on
105 the Study of Harassment in the Workplace found that 45% of all workplace harassment complaints
106 filed in 2015 were based on sex;

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108 WHEREAS, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 70% of people
109 who are sexually harassed in the workplace never file a formal complaint;

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111 WHEREAS, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, sexual
112 harassment victim-survivors exhibit detrimental psychological and physical health effects;

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114 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 1 in 4
115 children have experienced child neglect or abuse (including physical, emotional, and sexual) at
116 some point in their lives, and 1 in 7 children have experienced abuse or neglect in the last year;

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118 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Victims of Crimes, victim-survivors of
119 child sexual abuse have higher rates of being sexually assaulted again as adults. In fact, children
120 who had an experience of rape or attempted rape in their adolescent years are 13.7 times more
121 likely to experience rape or attempted rape in their first year of college;

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123 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
124 resolution may be cited as the "Sexual Assault Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of
125 2019."

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127 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and supports Sexual Assault
128 Awareness Month, urging residents to show their support for victim-survivors and work to prevent
129 sexual assault, abuse, and harassment.

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131 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
132 the District of Columbia Register.