**WHEREAS,** sexual violence—including but not limited to rape, incest, child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism—is a widespread and serious crime in the United States, with nearly 1 in 5 women in the United States having experienced rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives, and 1 in 67 American men having experienced rape or attempted rape;

**WHEREAS,** 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women have experienced violence in their lifetime and 1 in 2 have experienced sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** in the state of Minnesota, Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people are disproportionately likely to experience violence, be murdered, or go missing compared with other demographic groups;

**WHEREAS,** sexual violence against Native people coincides and intersects with other forms of violence and oppression that our people have faced in the past and contemporarily;

**WHEREAS,** there are limited resources, direct service providers, and organizations that serve victims of sexual violence in Indian Country and provide culturally-informed and culturally-appropriate care;

**WHEREAS,** sexual violence remains one of the most prevalent yet underrepresented crimes in both the United States and Indian Country;

**WHEREAS,** everyone deserves to be safe and the prevalence of sexual violence against our people jeopardizes both the safety of our people and the wellbeing of our Tribe; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the [insert Tribe] do hereby proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). We call upon [insert Tribe] members/citizens, law enforcement, Tribal organizations, health officials, and all community members to speak out against sexual violence and support survivors, victims, and families in their healing.

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[name of Tribal Nation] President/Tribal Chairperson

**Sources:**

* <https://www.niwrc.org/resources/template/sample-proclamation-sexual-assault-awareness-month>
* <https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/migrated-files/divisions/ojp/mmir/Documents/mmir-office-wilder-report-2023.pdf>
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