



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2022

**Month of October recognized as
“Navajo Nation Domestic Violence Awareness Month”**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a proclamation to recognize the month of October as the "Navajo Nation Domestic Violence Awareness Month" to raise awareness and increase prevention of violence in homes and communities across the Navajo Nation.

The proclamation states that domestic violence is a widespread issue that affects many Navajo people and impacts the Diné way of life, culture, and traditions. Domestic violence is a multi-generational cycle that disrupts harmony among many families and often leads to long-term emotional, spiritual, psychological, and physical harm.

"Sadly, we have many people who have been and continue to be domestic violence victims, and through the support and strength of others, many survivors continue to live prosperous lives. This modern monster often includes verbal abuse and controlling behavior intended to invoke dominance and control over others. This type of violence often results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences can cross generations and last a lifetime, but with greater awareness, education, and intervention, we can lessen and even stop domestic violence in our communities," said President Nez.

Last week, President Nez signed into law the Navajo Nation's FY2023 Comprehensive Budget, which fully funds the Division of Social Services, Division of Public Safety, Navajo Police Department, and an additional \$500,000 for the Proactive Criminal Enforcement Program, which is comprised of K-9 units, the Drug Enforcement Unit, and commissioned police personnel that conduct field operations to uncover and stop or disrupt activities that often lead to violent crimes.

The proclamation states that the Nez-Lizer Administration and the Department of Family Services within the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services continue to stand against domestic violence, family violence, dating violence, and sexual assaults.

"It's very disheartening that tribal nations across the country face higher rates of domestic violence and our children face these adversities as well. Common abuse tactics include isolation, intimidation, gender stereotypes, blame, financial or spiritual, cultural, and religious abuse. Acts

of domestic violence affect every person within a home and can have long-lasting effects on peoples' emotional well-being and social interactions. Through prayer and action, we can stop abuse and get on the road to recovery, healing, and restoration," said Vice President Lizer.

According to the proclamation, the Navajo Nation will continue to provide prevention and crisis intervention services for victims of domestic violence, family violence, dating violence, and sexual assault in partnership with other federal, state, tribal, and non-profit agencies.

For more information regarding domestic violence services and resources, contact the Navajo Nation Department of Family Services at (928) 660-8991. The National Domestic Violence hotline is also available to provide support 1-800-799-7233.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2022 AS

“NAVAJO NATION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

THE NAVAJO NATION, recognizes all Navajo families are entitled to a safe, healthy, stable, and loving environment. We come together to reaffirm our commitment to ending domestic violence, supporting survivors, and honoring victims.

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a wide-spread issue that affects many of our Navajo people, which impacts our Diné way of life, culture and traditions; domestic violence is a multi-generational family cycle, which disrupts many Diné families leaving an impact of long-term emotional, spiritual, psychological, and physical harm; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence has intensified due to increased economic insecurities and time in insolation with abusers, and limited contact with supportive networks and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is taking a stand against domestic violence, family violence, dating violence and sexual assaults through the Strengthening Families Program/Department of Family Services within the Division of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation will provide prevention and crisis intervention services for victims of domestic violence, family violence, dating violence and sexual assault in partnership with other federal, state, tribal organizations and non-profit agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN M. NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, Myron Lizer**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2022 as the “Navajo Nation Domestic Violence Awareness Month” and urge the citizens of the Navajo Nation to support and bring awareness to the prevention of domestic violence, family violence, dating violence and sexual assault on the Navajo Nation.

ORDERED THIS 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan M. Nez".

Jonathan M. Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION