



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2020

President Nez and Vice President Lizer proclaim “Navajo Nation Domestic Violence Awareness Month”

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, 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 assert that Navajo families are entitled to a safe, healthy, stable, and loving environment.

The proclamation states that domestic violence is a wide-spread issue that affects many of our Navajo people, impacting our Diné way of life and 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.

“Domestic violence was already an epidemic before the coronavirus, and it is alarming that the current health crisis has caused an increase in family violence and abuse across the country. On the other hand, we have also heard from many Navajo people who have reconciled with their loved ones during the pandemic. This month, our focus should be on providing help, comfort, and prayers for violence survivors and victims. Greater awareness, education, and intervention are greatly needed on the Nation. We ask our citizens to join us in sharing information and showing compassion that can help those who are experiencing violence during these uncertain times,” said President Nez.

The proclamation also recognizes that “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, and the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services.”

“By signing this proclamation, we call to action to bring attention to domestic violence and remind each other that there are countless victims, survivors, children, families, and communities impacted by violence. We need to pray and stand together to stop all abuse and get on the road to recovery, healing, and restoration,” said Vice President Lizer.

“In a survey sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, it states that 1 in 3 American Indians experiences domestic violence annually, which is absolutely unacceptable. Domestic violence is a choice, and we need to choose to return to our teachings and remember that we are a people of love and respect. Through this pandemic, I pray for our peoples’ safety, especially for those that

might feel as if they are emotionally, physically, and mentally trapped. May the Navajo Nation see this proclamation as a stance against domestic violence,” said Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish.

According to the proclamation, 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, and non-profit agencies.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**RECOGNIZING NAVAJO NATION
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, all Navajo families are entitled to a safe, healthy, stable, and loving environment, which nurtures and protects each family member; and

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, 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, and non-profit agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is committed to partnering with state and federal governmental agencies to prevent domestic violence, family violence, dating violence and sexual assault.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 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.

PROCLAIMED THIS 1st DAY OF OCTOBER 2020

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

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

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

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION