

City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Edward (Ed) Stern



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center was incorporated in 1975 as Pierce County Rape Relief, and is one of the longest continuously-operating community sexual assault centers in Washington State; and
- WHEREAS,** Rape Awareness Week was established in 1979 by the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, expanded to Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the late 1990s, and was officially recognized in 2009 by President Obama for the month of April; and
- WHEREAS,** according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost half of all women and almost one in four men in the United States experience sexual assault, and at least half of our LGBTQIA2S+ community is sexually assaulted, and at least one in four girls and as many as one in six boys are sexually abused before turning eighteen; and
- WHEREAS,** increased awareness around the prevalence of sexual violence has improved our communities' response to sexual assault and abuse, but intersecting forms of oppression continue to result in victimization; and
- WHEREAS,** continued efforts to increase awareness about how sexual violence impacts individuals, institutions, and communities are critical to dismantling the myths, beliefs, behaviors, and systems that promote sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS,** partnerships with local governments, philanthropists, and community-based organizations have supported Rebuilding Hope's delivery of 24/7 victim-survivor advocacy and trauma-focused therapy services as well as prevention education curricula to thousands of youth and adults to identify the signs of unhealthy behaviors and relationships, build skills for healthy boundaries and communication, and stop sexual violence before it happens; and
- WHEREAS,** with more than 50 years of dedicated service as Pierce County's designated sexual assault center and three years of service as Kitsap County's designated sexual assault center, Rebuilding Hope remains committed to its mission to provide support, promote healing, and partner to end sexual violence;

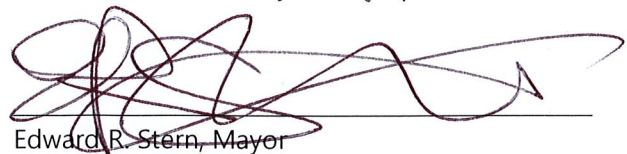
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward Stern, Mayor of the City of Poulsbo, Washington, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Poulsbo and encourage residents to seek information, education, and support related to sexual assault and abuse.



Dated this 1st day of APRIL, 2026.


Edward R. Stern, Mayor