

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

March 17, 2026

Proclaiming April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 29, 2026, as Denim Day in Los Angeles County

The month of April is recognized nationwide as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time to raise awareness about sexual violence, support survivors, and strengthen prevention efforts in communities across the country. Sexual violence affects individuals of all ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, races, and communities and can have profound and lasting impacts on survivors, families, and communities.

Sexual violence remains a significant public health and public safety issue both nationally and within Los Angeles County. According to national research, nearly half of women and more than one in six men report experiencing some form of sexual violence during their lifetime, including rape, attempted rape, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual contact.¹ Survivors often experience long-term emotional, psychological, and physical consequences, and many face barriers to reporting abuse or accessing support services due to stigma, fear of retaliation, distrust of institutions, and lack of access to culturally competent and trauma-informed services.

Sexual violence frequently occurs at a young age. National research indicates that a large proportion of survivors report experiencing their first assault before the age

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/sexualviolence-brief.pdf>

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of 25, and almost half were first assaulted as a minor.² Additionally, the Los Angeles County Health Survey estimates that hundreds of thousands of adults in the County have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual violence from an intimate partner.³ Furthermore, in 2025 705 rapes were reported the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, a 13.9% increase from 2024.

Sexual violence can also intersect with other forms of exploitation and abuse, including human trafficking and online grooming. As technology and digital communication platforms continue to evolve, perpetrators increasingly use online spaces to manipulate and exploit vulnerable youth. Recently, federal and local authorities reported that a man groomed a 13-year-old girl through online communications, coerced her into acts of self-harm, and ultimately lured her to a Los Angeles motel for sexual exploitation.⁴

Online exploitation networks have also emerged that specifically target youth through coercion, manipulation, and threats. One such network, commonly referred to as "764," has been linked by law enforcement to a decentralized online community that pressures and manipulates young people into engaging in self-harm, sexual exploitation, and other dangerous acts that are recorded and distributed online.

Increasing awareness of these online threats and providing families with information on

²<https://www.cdc.gov/sexual-violence/about/index.html>

³<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/210350.pdf#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20most%20recent%20Los%20Angeles,experienced%20unwanted%20sex%20by%20an%20intimate%20partner.&text=In%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20between%202018%2D22%2C%20there.6%2C267%20emergency%20department%20visits%20for%20sexual%20assault.>

⁴<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-02-23/feds-say-man-who-groomed-13-year-old-girl-into-acts-of-self-harm-online-lured-her-to-la-motel-for-sex#:~:text=0:00%20:00,Advertisement>

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how to identify grooming behaviors are critical components of preventing exploitation and protecting young people in the digital age.

Public awareness campaigns and survivor advocacy movements have played an important role in challenging harmful myths about sexual violence and supporting survivors. One such initiative is Denim Day, which originated in Los Angeles through the nonprofit organization Peace Over Violence and is now recognized internationally as a day of action encouraging individuals to wear denim in solidarity with survivors and raise awareness about sexual violence.

Los Angeles County continues to work with community organizations, advocates, and public health leaders to prevent sexual violence and support survivors. Through efforts led by the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, including the County's Sexual Assault Council, the County is strengthening coordination across departments, expanding access to survivor-centered services, and advancing strategies to prevent sexual violence. Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month underscores Los Angeles County's ongoing commitment to supporting survivors, raising public awareness, and advancing efforts to prevent sexual violence across our communities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the month of April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in Los Angeles County.
2. Proclaim April 29, 2026 as Denim Day in Los Angeles County and encourage all County residents to learn more about the history of Denim Day and how to get

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involved by visiting <https://denimday.org>.

3. Encourage the Los Angeles County Communications and all County

Departments to:

- a. Uplift Denim Day to County residents and staff by encouraging them to wear denim on April 29, 2026, in solidarity with survivors and to raise awareness that there is never an excuse for sexual harassment, abuse, or assault.
- b. Raise awareness about the dangers posed by online exploitation networks, including groups such as “764,” and provide resources and online safety guidance for parents, caregivers, youth, and residents on how to recognize grooming behaviors and identify when someone may be at risk of online exploitation or coercion.

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