

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor

William R. Rhodes
Governor



Joseph Manuel
Lieutenant Governor

Gila River Indian Community

PROCLAMATION

**Gila River Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October, 2010**

The Gila River Indian Community is a community of families, spanning many generations, bound together by the O'Odham/Pee-Posh way of life. However, that way of life has been threatened by years of violence against one another. Domestic violence affects the lives of Community members of all ages. Every act of violence against a loved one and every time a child witnesses a parent suffer at the hands of a family member, the O'Odham/Pee-Posh tradition of love and respect crumbles. A home should not be a place for fear and violence. This is the call of the Community – "The violence must end!"

The Community does not tolerate the violence, the hatred and the victimization of Community members. Such a call is a collaborative effort from law enforcement, to social services, to teachers to friends and family members. If victims cannot protect themselves and their children, then it is the responsibility of the O'Odham/Pee-Posh to step in and provide safe shelter, medical care, justice, education, and services.

Native American women are victimized by an intimate relation at a higher rate than any other group in the United States, and the women of the Community are no different. Oftentimes, victims suffer in silence even when bruises and injuries on their bodies plead for help. And most often the children witnessing the violence suffer as continuous exposure to violence in the home leads to many other behavioral and social problems. For the young people, the stems of violence and social misbehavior take root from the horrors witnessed in the home.

The story of how the Community allowed domestic violence into its homes is to be decided for another day. Today we simply proclaim, "No more!" Domestic Violence is not the O'Odham/Pee Posh tradition, so we will unite in this cause to raise awareness. No longer will our families be brutalized. No longer will our children live in a home without love and respect. And no longer will we turn a blind eye to the desperation of our neighbors.

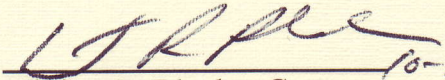
Now as the extreme heat of summer takes its leave and the autumn coolness brings the celebratory month of October into our homes like a welcomed grandparent, we honor the month of October by observing the 23rd Annual National Domestic Violence Awareness

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Month. Please join me in actively protecting our families by bringing safety and healing, justice and rehabilitation to those in need.

THEREFORE, THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY HEREBY PROCLAIMS RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 2010 AS GILA RIVER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.


10-11-10
William R. Rhodes, Governor
Gila River Indian Community

ATTEST:


Community Council Secretary 10-11-10

