

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, stalking is a serious and sometimes deadly crime that threatens millions of people each year in communities across our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, stalking affects people from all walks of life and, while an individual may be targeted by a complete stranger, most victims know their offender in some capacity; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of stalking victims experienced at least one unwanted contact per week, and approximately one in four stalking victims reported some form of cyberstalking such as e-mail or instant messaging; and

WHEREAS, victims of stalking often experience anxiety, insomnia, severe depression, social dysfunction, and lost work time and productivity at a higher rate than the general public and may take drastic measures, including relocating, obtaining orders of protection, and changing their job, address, and identity, to protect themselves; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Stalking Awareness Month calls attention to the crime of stalking, the needs of victims, and the resources available to help those targeted.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 2014 as

STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about stalking and recognize service providers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, public and private agencies, and other supporters for their efforts to help raise awareness of this crime and improve the quality of life of its victims.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA