

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity through the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina ranks 8th in the nation for the number of women killed by men, and nearly 25,000 women and children received services from domestic violence centers last year alone; and

WHEREAS, the effects of domestic violence on children are devastating and can cause lifelong problems due to emotional and/or physical trauma; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month calls attention to the importance of working together to assure a life free from harm for all South Carolinians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join together in recommitting ourselves to eliminating domestic violence, reaching out to its victims, and letting them know that help is available.