

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 36

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates November 25 of each year as the “Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in New Jersey.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating November 25 as the Day for the
2 Elimination of Violence Against Women in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated
5 November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of
6 Violence Against Women, and invited governments, international
7 organizations and nongovernmental organizations to organize
8 activities on that date each year to raise public awareness; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Violence against women is a human rights violation and a
10 consequence of discrimination against women, in law and in
11 practice, as well as a consequence of persistent inequalities between
12 men and women; and
13 **WHEREAS**, A 2017 report by the UN Secretary-General, using data for
14 87 countries from 2005 to 2016, found that 19 percent of women
15 between ages 15 and 49 said they had experienced physical and/or
16 sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months; and
17 **WHEREAS**, In the most extreme cases, violence against women can
18 lead to death. In 2012, almost half of all women who were victims
19 of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an intimate
20 partner or family member, compared to 6 percent of male victims;
21 and
22 **WHEREAS**, Gender inequality persists worldwide. As stated by the UN
23 Secretary-General, achieving gender equality and the empowerment
24 of women and girls will require more vigorous efforts, including
25 legal frameworks, to counter deeply rooted gender-based
26 discrimination that often results from patriarchal attitudes and
27 related social norms; and
28 **WHEREAS**, In 2008, then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
29 launched the “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” campaign
30 to further raise public awareness and increase political will and
31 resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against
32 women and girls in all parts of the world; and
33 **WHEREAS**, UNiTE leads the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-
34 Based Violence Campaign,” which aims to mobilize people to bring
35 about change. The 16 days from November 25 to December 10
36 culminate in Human Rights Day; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Violence against women is a problem in New Jersey as
38 well. According to the most recent data, as set out in the New
39 Jersey State Police Domestic Violence Offense Report, 63,420
40 domestic violence offenses were reported by the police in New
41 Jersey in 2016, a 3 percent increase over the previous year. Women
42 were the victims in 74 percent of the cases; and
43 **WHEREAS**, In 2016, of the 52 domestic violence-related homicides in
44 New Jersey, 36 victims were women; now, therefore,
45
46 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
47 *State of New Jersey:*

1 1. November 25 of each year is designated as the “Day for the
2 Elimination of Violence Against Women in New Jersey.” The
3 Governor shall annually issue a proclamation and call upon public
4 officials and citizens of this State to observe this day with
5 appropriate awareness activities and programs.

6
7 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.
8
9

10 STATEMENT

11
12 This joint resolution designates November 25 of each year as the
13 “Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in New
14 Jersey.” In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated
15 that date as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence
16 Against Women, and invited governments, international
17 organizations and nongovernmental organizations to organize
18 activities on that date each year to raise public awareness.

19 Violence against women is a human rights violation and a
20 consequence of discrimination against women, in law and in
21 practice, as well as a consequence of persistent inequalities between
22 men and women. A 2017 report by the UN Secretary-General,
23 using data for 87 countries from 2005 to 2016, found that 19
24 percent of women between ages 15 and 49 years said they had
25 experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner
26 in the past 12 months. In the most extreme cases, violence against
27 women can lead to death. In 2012, almost half of all women who
28 were victims of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an
29 intimate partner or family member, compared to 6 percent of male
30 victims.

31 Gender inequality persists worldwide. As stated by the UN
32 Secretary-General, achieving gender equality and the empowerment
33 of women and girls will require more vigorous efforts, including
34 legal frameworks, to counter deeply rooted gender-based
35 discrimination that often results from patriarchal attitudes and
36 related social norms.

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38 “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” campaign to further raise
39 public awareness and increase political will and resources for
40 preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and
41 girls in all parts of the world. UNiTE leads the “16 Days of
42 Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign,” which aims
43 to mobilize people to bring about change. The 16 days from
44 November 25 to December 10 culminate in Human Rights Day.

45 Violence against women is a problem in New Jersey as well.
46 According to the most recent data, as set out in the New Jersey
47 State Police Domestic Violence Offense Report, 63,420 domestic
48 violence offenses were reported by the police in New Jersey in

1 2016, a 3 percent increase over the previous year. Women were the
2 victims in 74 percent of these cases. Of the 52 domestic violence-
3 related homicides in New Jersey in 2016, 36 homicide victims were
4 women.