

MEMBER

- Licenses Committee
- Public Safety and Health Committee
- Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- Ethics Advisory Committee – Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
- City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force



CHANTIA LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

Denim Day Shows Support for Sexual Violence Survivors

Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis April 24, 2019

Every April, millions of people across the world show their support for sexual assault survivors by participating in Denim Day (today-April 24, 2019), a sexual violence prevention and education campaign. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become an international symbol of protest against the damaging attitudes surrounding sexual assault in our communities and in the judicial system. In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court overruled a rape conviction on the grounds that the victim wore tight jeans and may have helped her attacker remove them, implying the attack on her was consensual sex. Outraged by the decision, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans the next day, standing in solidarity with the victim and sparking a worldwide movement and discussion on sexual violence.

On this day, I encourage residents to reflect on how individuals, institutions and elected officials talk about sexual assault and how we treat survivors. Denim Day is a reminder that no matter how far we have come in recent years, we still have work to do to combat the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.

The simplest way to make an impact is to start in your own community. As a member of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, I have seen the transformative impact of protecting victims and survivors of sexual violence and holding perpetrators accountable. Today, I stand in solidarity with victims and survivors, and I encourage residents to do the same.

If you or someone you know has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, these agencies can help:

24-Hour Crisis Help Lines

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| IMPACT | 211 |
| Safe Path (Questions about Youth Sexual Violence) | 414-271-9523 |
| Sexual Assault Treatment Center | 414-219-5555 |

-More-



Shelters

Sojourner Truth House

414-933-2722

Milwaukee Women's Center Refuge

414-671-6140

Milwaukee Rescue Mission

414-344-2211

For a complete list of available resources and more information about sexual violence prevention, please visit the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's website at https://city.milwaukee.gov/health/staysafe/health/mCDVSA#.XMB_WrdKgdU

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