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"Beyond a Single Day: Executive Recognition of a Full Month Dedicated to Stalking an Issue that Highlights Harassment, Workplace Abuse, and Other Targeted Attacks for All Individuals in This Country and Abroad"

Today is February 1, 2026. While January's designation as National Stalking Awareness Month was meaningful and appreciated by the President and advocates nationwide, the recognition should not end with the month. Stalking, harassment, and workplace abuse continue every day, and our awareness, prevention, and support must also continue year-round. As retired law enforcement professional and a survivor of these crimes, I write to urge sustained, measurable action to ensure that victims are recognized, supported, and protected, and that communities and public officials remain informed and proactive in addressing these serious issues.

National Stalking Awareness Month, observed each January, has long been dedicated to acknowledging the serious and often hidden crime of stalking and standing with the many individuals and families affected by it. While January provided important attention and recognition, awareness and action must continue every day of the year. This observance invites all of us to learn the warning signs, support victims and survivors, and speak out against behaviors that cause fear, intimidation, coercive control, and lasting harm beyond a single month and across all communities.

Presidential Recognition of Stalking

On January 1, 2021, President Donald J. Trump issued a formal memo recognizing stalking as a serious crime and calling on the nation to address it. His message

emphasized that stalking often involves repeated and unwanted contact, intimidation, and misuse of technology and social media to threaten, control, or terrorize victims. Importantly, the memo highlights that stalking affects both women and men of all ages, showing that this is an issue that impacts all individuals in this country and abroad. This executive recognition reinforced that stalking is not a misunderstanding, a personal conflict, or an isolated incident. It is a serious crime with real and lasting consequences.

I have included a copy of President Trump's memo, which formally recognizes stalking as a serious issue. This recognition underscores that stalking is a bipartisan issue that affects all U.S. residents, regardless of background, profession, or political affiliation, and highlights the need for nationwide awareness, protection, and support for victims.

Impact on Victims / Personal Experience

According to President Trump's January 1, 2021 message, stalking affects millions of Americans, including both women and men of all ages, with many victims targeted by someone they know, such as an acquaintance, partner, former partner, or friend. Stalking often involves repeated and unwanted contact, harassment, intimidation, or misuse of technology and social media. The memo calls on the public to recognize stalking as a serious crime, learn the warning signs, and take action if it happens to you.

Not only was I law enforcement trained to enforce crime, but also a victim of such crimes, including stalking, harassment, workplace abuses, and other related crimes. I understand firsthand the fear, disruption, and harm these crimes cause, and I fully support National Stalking Awareness Month.

Recent cases underscore the severity and persistence of stalking and harassment:

- **Anna Nasset (2011–2019, publicized 2021):** Long-term targeting that profoundly affected the victim's life and demonstrates the extended impact stalking can have.
- **Edward Cagney Mathews (Mount Laurel, NJ, 2020–2023):** Stalking and harassment that escalated over several years, showing these crimes can persist and cross state lines.
- **Serial cyber stalker (Massachusetts, sentenced 2025):** Technology-facilitated stalking illustrating the growing online threats to personal safety and privacy.

- **Cyber stalker vs. roommate (Washington, sentenced 2024):** Persistent harassment in a shared living situation, highlighting that stalking can occur in everyday environments and affect anyone.

These examples highlight that stalking is not isolated, can affect anyone, and requires vigilant enforcement, public awareness, and proactive prevention.

Victims or those supporting them are urged to seek help immediately, including contacting the **National Center for Victims of Crime Hotline at 1-855-484-2846**, to ensure safety, support, and accountability.

What I Believe

I believe stalking, harassment, workplace abuses, and related crimes are serious violations of civil rights, safety, and dignity. These are not mental illness, but rather situations where society often fails to see, recognize, and act what I call mental complicity to recognize hidden crimes that are ignored. Awareness, advocacy, and action are essential to ensure victims are protected and perpetrators are held accountable.

Victims Told You

WE SAID STALKING HARASSMENT HAPPENING

- **W**ill-power to survive and speak out
- **E** Enforcement of existing laws and policies
- **S** Support for victims and their families
- **A** Advocacy to change systems and culture
- **I** Information to educate the public and professionals
- **D** Dedication to sustained, non-provocative, constructive action
- **S** Stalking, harassment, and hidden workplace abuses are not mental illness
- **H** Harassment
- **H** Happening

"Again, these crimes are not a reflection of mental illness on the part of the victim; rather, they expose a societal mental complicity our collective failure to recognize and act against hidden crimes that are occurring and being ignored."

Leadership and Legislative Action

It is also critical to recognize the leadership of those who acted when stalking was still widely misunderstood or minimized. C.A. Goldberg Law Firm was among the first to recognize stalking as a serious, technology-facilitated, and systemic threat. The firm drafted early versions of the CREEP Act concept and actively advocated for its passage, organizing lobby days, meeting with lawmakers, and helping build support among advocates and stakeholders. Their efforts helped bring attention to the issue and contributed to the bill being formally introduced in the New York State Legislature by Senator Andrew Gounardes (S3394) in the Senate and Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas (A3226) in the Assembly. In short, C.A. Goldberg's foresight and advocacy mobilized legislators to act and amplified survivor voices in the policy process, creating a foundation for the bipartisan protections now under law.

It is equally important to recognize the many national organizations whose sustained efforts have advanced awareness, research, policy, victim support, constitutional protections, and professional guidance related to stalking and related forms of abuse. These include the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC), the Stalking Resource Center (SRC), the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), RAINN, ACLU, EFF, OVW, OJP, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Through survivor advocacy, civil liberties protection, technology and privacy expertise, federal leadership, funding, research, and law-enforcement training, these organizations have collectively contributed to a more accurate, comprehensive, and responsible understanding of stalking. Their work reinforces that addressing stalking is a shared national responsibility grounded in public safety, civil rights, constitutional principles, and human dignity.

Taking Action

Today marks a new day and a new month. While January's designation as National Stalking Awareness Month was meaningful, awareness and action must continue beyond a single month. With your continued leadership and support, the awareness built in January should carry forward and grow throughout the year. Stalking, harassment, and workplace abuse do not pause or diminish after one month, and neither should our collective responsibility to recognize these crimes, respond effectively, and support victims. Awareness and action should not be confined to a single month or a single country. They are a global responsibility.

Because of these realities, I am asking organizations in our community, including schools, workplaces, faith communities, law enforcement agencies, universities, and local service providers, to take concrete, visible action. This can include staff training on recognizing and responding to stalking, sharing information about warning signs and safety planning, and posting accessible resources for victims and survivors in visible locations, both in person and online.

I especially encourage organizations to:

- Review and strengthen policies related to harassment, stalking, civil rights, and safety on and off premises.
- Provide clear information about how to report stalking and related rights violations, and how those reports will be handled.
- Share contact information for local law enforcement, victim service agencies, civil rights advocates, and hotlines, making it easy for people to seek help confidentially.
- Hold at least one awareness activity during the year, such as a presentation, training, newsletter article, or social media campaign, to demonstrate that victims and survivors are seen, believed, and supported.

Finally, as we reflect on these efforts, it is essential to remember that if awareness and improvement cannot be measured, then we are complicit in allowing the same patterns of inaction to continue. I am willing to help create a mechanism to track, measure, and evaluate these situations, ensuring that progress is tangible, accountability is maintained, and victims' safety and rights are actively protected. Please support ongoing stalking awareness, this executive decision, and the commitment that we will measure and change these hidden crimes.

Request for Meeting with Public Officials

In regard to public officials, I respectfully request the opportunity to meet and discuss practical stalking and harassment prevention and response tools that can assist you and your staff in better serving your constituents. I am willing to furnish educational materials, reporting guidance, policy considerations, and victim-centered resources designed to help raise awareness, improve early recognition, and clearly inform individuals of the actions they should take if they are involved in or affected by stalking, harassment, or related abuses.

Such a discussion would support your efforts to protect public safety, uphold civil rights, and ensure constituents are informed, supported, and directed to appropriate assistance before situations escalate. I believe proactive engagement and education are essential to preventing harm and strengthening trust between public institutions and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your commitment to promoting safety, civil rights, and justice in our communities.

Daylight Advocacy,

Yusef Thomas
Retired Law Enforcement

This is historical material "frozen in time". The website is no longer updated and links to external websites and some internal pages may not work.

STATEMENTS & RELEASES

Presidential Message on National Stalking Awareness Month, 2021

— LAW & JUSTICE Issued on: January 1, 2021

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Millions of Americans each year are victims of stalking, a disturbing crime that restricts an individual's ability to live a productive, peaceful, and fulfilling life. Throughout National Stalking Awareness Month, we recognize this form of bullying and intimidation and recommit to addressing and preventing this harmful behavior that devastates so many individuals and their families and friends.

Today, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men experience stalking in their lifetime, and nearly 7 in 10 victims report knowing their stalker. Stalkers commonly target young people, with 54 percent of female victims and 41 percent of male victims experiencing stalking before age 25. Even if the offender relents, many victims of stalking experience long-lasting mental and physical aftereffects, resulting in prolonged depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person to instill torment, fear, control, and uncertainty. Behaviors include unwanted contact, harassing family members or friends, leaving unwanted items, and lurking or appearing at places without invitation and/or a legitimate purpose. Increasingly, perpetrators are using social media platforms and technology to terrorize their victims. Cyber stalkers post private

information, send illicit or suggestive messages, concoct rumors online about an individual or their family and friends which causes them to fear for their safety, reputation, and even their livelihood.

Stalking any individual, especially our young people will not be tolerated. That is why, last month, I signed the Combat Online Predators Act to impose tough penalties on predators for stalking minors, including increasing the maximum prison sentence from 10 to 15 years. As one Nation, we must do everything in our power to keep our children and loved ones safe from this predatory behavior and hold perpetrators accountable.

My Administration remains committed to ending the crime of stalking. To learn its signs visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and if you or someone you know is a victim of stalking, please call the National Center for Victims of Crime Hotline: 1-855-484-2846.