

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON**

In the matter of proclaiming October 20-26, 2024, as National Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week in Marion County.

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, a community without abuse, violence, and suicide is a dream we all share; and

**WHEREAS**, any form of mistreatment of another is abuse and all people have the moral and legal right to live free of abuse and violence; and

**WHEREAS**, each of us must come to understand that it is within our personal power to choose not to use abuse and violence to resolve conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that respect for ourselves and others is key to developing healthy relationships at every age and in all circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the principle of non-violent resolution of conflict must be taught to our children and practiced within each of our families; and

**WHEREAS**, verbal and emotional abuse can be just as damaging as physical violence to a person's self-worth, creating scars that are carried for the rest of his/her life; and

**WHEREAS**, verbal abuse such as name calling, insulting, and belittling frequently escalates into simple force like pushing, grabbing or slapping, and the worst scenario is the escalation to rage, serious violence, and even murder; and

**WHEREAS**, self-harm and suicide must be acknowledged as a serious public health crisis as the number of victims continues to escalate in children, teens, and adults; and

**WHEREAS**, we the Commissioners of Marion County, together with communities around the country and overseas, recognize that the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project's Purple Hands Pledge® is an effective tool in abuse, violence, and suicide prevention education; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Marion County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the week of October 20th through 26th, 2024, to be the 27th Annual National **HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING WEEK** in Marion County, and encourage all citizens of Marion County to join hands and hearts to unite as a family and a community to pledge, both privately and publicly, that

**"I Will Not Use My Hands Or My Words For Hurting Myself Or Others"®**

Dated this 2nd day of October 2024.

**MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Chairperson 

Commissioner 

Commissioner 



OREGON