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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Marks Commencement of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (Prohibition) Law

Belmopan, November 26, 2026.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs is pleased to announce that the Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (Prohibition) Act, Act No. 22 of 2026, officially came into force on November 25, 2026.

In accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 135 of 2026, gazetted on November 14, 2026, the Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramírez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, appointed November 25 as the date for the commencement of the Act.

The coming into force of this legislation marks a significant milestone in Belize's efforts to strengthen legal protections, improve access to justice for survivors, and promote greater accountability for acts of domestic and intimate partner violence.

Its commencement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which also marks the beginning of the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, is particularly meaningful. It reinforces Belize's commitment to moving beyond awareness and advocacy towards meaningful action. Under this year's national theme, “Ensure Justice. Protect Survivors. End Impunity,” the Ministry continues to emphasize the importance of translating legislative reform into effective protection, accessible services, and coordinated institutional responses.

The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to working alongside its national partners, communities, and families to build a Belize where every person can live safely and with dignity, without fear of violence.

Ensure Justice. Protect Survivors. End Impunity. Building Stronger Families, Safer Communities.

Ends