

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, women represented 26 percent of new AIDS diagnoses, compared to only 11 percent of the new AIDS cases reported in 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, women of color are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, AIDS is now the leading cause of death for black women ages 25-34; and

**WHEREAS**, HIV infection was the third leading cause of death for black women and the fourth leading cause of death for Hispanic women, ages 35-44; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that it is important to approach this health problem with women through social networking and cultural events in communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal Office on Women's Health has designated March 10 as National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this annual day is to raise awareness of the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls, and encourage them to take action;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 10, 2009, as

### ***Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day***

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Gregoire".

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

