



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Since our nation's inception, we have aspired to the highest ideals of freedom, justice, and the pursuit of happiness. To preserve these values, we must recognize that we live in a world where people are still deprived of these rights, a world where people are trafficked for labor or bought and sold in the sex trade. Even more importantly, we must continue to recognize that the heinous crime of human trafficking happens right here in our state and nation—even children in our own communities are commodities for sexual predators and the profit of traffickers.

The State of Texas will not tolerate the inhumane practices of coercive and manipulative criminals. We enact serious penalties for human traffickers, and we continuously strive to serve the victims of these heinous crimes. Since the creation of my office's Child Sex Trafficking Team, our innovative approaches have been effective in protecting our vulnerable populations across the state, especially our children. My team knows that a spirit of collaboration is critical in this endeavor, and I commend all those working toward a stronger and more coordinated response. Their work will help ensure a better and brighter future for all Texans.

Furthermore, I applaud our state's brave law enforcement officers, service providers, and prosecutors for their dedication to combating these terrible crimes. I also thank the many diverse communities of faith, businesses, foundations, and other advocates who continue to step up and make a difference in the lives of so many of Texans. I especially want to express my gratitude to the incredible survivors who raise their voices and share their stories to help others. The strength and resilience exemplified by these courageous individuals is a constant inspiration to us all.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the harmful effects and warning signs of human trafficking so they may do their part to help end this atrocity. The reality of this evil enterprise can be staggering; however, Texans are not overcome when faced with adversity. Together, we can protect the vulnerable, help victims find healing, and bring offenders to justice.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 2022 to be

Human Trafficking Prevention Month



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
3rd day of January, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas