



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Nearly 25 million individuals fall prey to human traffickers each year. This modern blight—marked by forced labor and sexual exploitation—is as degrading, dehumanizing, and evil as the chattel slavery of the past. Human trafficking stands as an affront to human dignity, and tragically, it lurks beneath the surface of modern America, mocking the very notions of liberty and justice. Ours can never be a truly free and just society so long as human trafficking endures, and we must therefore go to any lengths necessary to purge this vice from our nation.

We have a moral duty to break the chains of modern-day slavery, and to this end, my administration has devoted serious, sustained effort to the eradication of human trafficking. From the Child Sex Trafficking Team to the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force and the Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation initiative, the State of Texas has wielded its power in order to educate the public, prevent trafficking, rescue victims, and support survivors. Moreover, we have worked in tandem with law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges to bring traffickers to justice. While I believe that actions thus far have made a difference in people's lives, I also know that more work awaits us if we are to end human trafficking once and for all.

The scope of human trafficking is vast, and its eradication will not be easy. We must, however, work as one to honor the victims, protect our posterity, and right the wrongs of this world. It is clear that individuals, families, businesses, government agencies, and churches will all have a role to play as we reform our society and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Each year, a month is set aside to shed light on this unsettling issue, and organizations throughout the nation labor in common cause to garner support for the movement to end human trafficking. At this time, I encourage all Texans to educate themselves about human trafficking, learn to identify its signs, and recognize that this crisis demands action.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 2023 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  
1st day of January, 2023.



  
Governor of Texas