



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Throughout our history, Texans have strived to fulfill the promise of the founding principles of our nation — life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To ensure the preservation of these ideals, we must work to ensure freedom, safety, and justice for all. Human trafficking, which preys upon and manipulates vulnerable people into sexual exploitation or forced labor, cannot be reconciled with our values and is an evil that tragically plagues our world every day. Together, we must unite and commit ourselves to ending this heinous crime.

Across Texas, our diverse faith communities are a shining light in the fight to end human trafficking, and these communities hold a longstanding and pivotal role in supporting those in need and promoting healing. In 2019, First Lady Cecilia Abbott partnered with the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Child Sex Trafficking Team in the Office of the Governor, and faith leaders across Texas to launch GRACE (Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation). GRACE empowers and mobilizes communities of faith to fight human trafficking and exploitation in our state through education, advocacy, prayer, and provision of resources. Through this shared vision, and by unifying against human trafficking, we can help survivors heal and flourish, and continue to protect those who are vulnerable.

The start of a new year is often a time filled with hopeful anticipation of things to come, but we must never lose sight of the work that remains before us. As we enter 2021, I am filled with hope and confident in our collective ability to continue the important effort of eradicating human trafficking in our state. I am thankful for all those who work tirelessly to keep the dreams of so many alive, including the many law enforcement officers, prosecutors, advocates, service providers, and other vital community members, all of whom continue to support one another as we strive toward our goal to ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us.

At this time, I encourage Texans of all faiths and religious backgrounds to join me and First Lady Cecilia Abbott in prayer and in action to end of human trafficking in our state, nation, and world. We must renew our commitment to supporting survivors, educating ourselves to recognize and report exploitation, and bringing exploiters to justice. If we come together to foster a brighter future for those harmed by this terrible crime, we will ensure a brighter future for all. Human trafficking has no place in our state, and together, we can end it.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 11-17, 2021, to be a

## **Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

  
Governor of Texas