



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Throughout our history, Texans have strived to fulfill the promise of our nation's founding principles—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 preys upon and manipulates vulnerable people into sexual exploitation or forced labor and therefore cannot be reconciled with our values. Together, we must unite and commit ourselves to ending this evil that tragically plagues our world every day.

Throughout Texas, our diverse faith communities are a shining light in the fight to end human trafficking, and they play 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 the provision of resources. Through this shared vision, and by unifying against human trafficking, we can help survivors heal and flourish while protecting those who are vulnerable.

The start of a new year is often a time filled with the hopeful anticipation of things to come, but we must never lose sight of the work that remains before us. As we enter 2022, 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 our 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 for the 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 better future for all. Human trafficking has no place in our state, and by working together, we can end it.

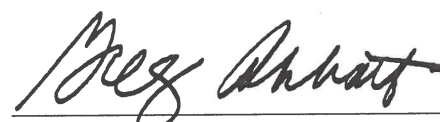
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 10-16, 2022, to be a

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
3rd day of January, 2022.


Governor of Texas