



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

At the heart of the American worldview lies an unwavering belief that all human beings are endowed with inherent value. Consequently, we are duty-bound to confront human trafficking, one of the great moral crises of our time.

Today, nearly 28 million people around the world are being trafficked, and many documented cases take place within our own borders each year. Officials at every level of our government strive to eradicate human trafficking, but in the face of such a heinous affront to our moral foundation, we must also turn to a higher power.

Offering hope, guidance, and the promise of redemption, people of faith have long been at the forefront of the movement to end human trafficking. In addition to mobilizing public support, faith groups provide tangible assistance to victims and survivors in their hour of need. To amplify these efforts, First Lady Cecilia Abbott—in collaboration with Texas faith leaders, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Child Sex Trafficking Team within my office—launched the GRACE (Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation) initiative in 2019. Through education, advocacy, support, and prayer, the initiative represents meaningful progress in the movement to end commercial sexual exploitation once and for all.

With decisive action and uncompromising commitment, we can make 2024 a turning point in the movement against human trafficking. During the month of January, when we are most keenly aware of the new year’s limitless potential, a week is set aside so that Texans of all creeds can come together in prayer and recommit to the work that awaits us.

At this time, I implore all Texans to join me and the First Lady in prayer. During this week and throughout the year, we lift up in prayer the men and women who advance the interests of justice—whether law enforcement officers, prosecutors, advocates, or service providers. For those trapped in the cycle of human trafficking, we pray for deliverance, healing, strength, and hope. Finally, recognizing the power of prayer, we call upon the Almighty to draw us ever closer to the day when none of His children know the anguish of human trafficking, and we ask for the courage and wisdom necessary to carry out His purpose in this pressing matter.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 8 – 14, 2024, to be a

Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 4th day of January, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas