



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Ours is a nation founded on the timeless principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and for nearly a quarter millennium, we have striven to fulfill the promises laid out in our founding documents. The survival of these ideals cannot be taken for granted, and we must therefore work to ensure freedom, justice, and security for all. A particularly insidious threat to this quest for domestic tranquility is human trafficking, which is tantamount to modern-day slavery. Traffickers prey upon the most vulnerable among us, and they use coercion, force, and fraud to entrap victims into sexual exploitation or forced labor. Such barbarity has no place in a just, civilized society, and consequently, we must work tirelessly to end this evil.

Four years ago, the First Lady—alongside faith leaders throughout the state, as well as the Department of Family and Protective Services and the Child Sex Trafficking Team—launched the GRACE (Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation) initiative. This collaborative program has empowered communities of faith to fight human trafficking and exploitation in our state through education, advocacy, resources, and—crucially—prayer. The shared vision of a future free from the horrors of human trafficking unites believers of all creeds, and it impels us to work toward the day when no son or daughter of Texas suffers at the hands of human traffickers.

The beginning of a new year is a time filled with the hopeful anticipation of things to come, but we cannot allow ourselves to lose sight of the work that awaits us. As we enter 2023, I remain confident in our collective ability to eradicate human trafficking in our state, but this endeavor will require continuous prayer, total commitment, and an uncompromising desire to defend the downtrodden. I am thankful for the many dedicated professionals who keep this dream alive. From our brave law enforcement officers to our prosecutors, advocates, and service providers, we have witnessed a far-reaching, multipronged effort to end human trafficking, and I know that this movement’s greatest victories are yet to come. As we strive to secure the blessings of liberty for the most vulnerable among us, we must recommit ourselves to this important mission, and we must pray for strength, courage, wisdom, and guidance.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to join me and First Lady Cecilia Abbott in prayer. This week and hereafter, we must pray for the end of human trafficking in our state, our nation, and our world. We must likewise renew our commitment to the cause, educate ourselves about human trafficking, and work to bring about a future free from this blight.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 9–15, 2023, 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
04 day of 01, 2023.


Governor of Texas