



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of every shred of personal freedom; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained or transported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation, involuntary servitude, debt bondage or slavery, or when any commercial sex act is committed upon a minor; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers frequently prey on victims with limited resources and support or a history of childhood abuse or neglect, and exploit their circumstances for personal gain; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is considered to be the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today, second only to drug trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the International Labour Organization has estimated that more than 20 million people worldwide are currently in forced labor, bonded labor, or sexual exploitation, including millions of children; and

WHEREAS, a majority of victims of human trafficking reported in the United States were born in the United States but many other victims who are trafficked into the United States do not speak or understand English and are unable to communicate to seek rescue; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey, as a major national and international transportation corridor, may be particularly susceptible to human trafficking activity; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern-day slavery, a practice that contravenes the fundamental principles of liberty and human rights upon which our Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Constitution declares that all persons have certain natural and unalienable rights, including the right to liberty, and further provides that crime victims are entitled to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that all New Jersey residents are made aware of and sensitized to human trafficking activities and the actions they can take to help combat it, so that we may effectively uncover and prevent this horrible crime and assist survivors of modern day slavery; and

WHEREAS, by designating January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the State of New Jersey has resolved to support efforts by individuals, businesses, organizations and governing bodies to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JANUARY 2019
AS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey to raise awareness about the signs and consequences of human trafficking, to promote opposition to human trafficking in all of its forms, and to encourage support for the survivors of human trafficking throughout the State of New Jersey and across the world to put an end to this criminal activity and restore freedom and dignity to its survivors.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this eighteenth day of December in the year two thousand eighteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR