

## STATE OF TEXAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are guaranteed to every citizen, and these inalienable rights have long defined the American experience. One of the greatest threats to these rights is human trafficking, which impacts nearly 25 million people each year.

A modern form of slavery, human trafficking is marked by forced labor or sexual exploitation. It is the responsibility of all who seek liberty to end human trafficking once and for all. To do so, we must educate ourselves about ways to support survivors, rescue victims, and prevent trafficking.

To this end, the State of Texas—in conjunction with law enforcement and private organizations—carries out prevention initiatives, collaborates to bring traffickers to justice, and protects vulnerable populations. These endeavors have brought about meaningful progress, but much work remains if we are to relegate human trafficking to the past.

Each year, the month of January is dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking and honoring the organizations, government entities, and law enforcement officials striving to eradicate it. At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the dangers and indicators of human trafficking and to take action to eliminate this menace from our society.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 2024 to be

## **Human Trafficking Prevention Month**



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 6th day of December, 2023.

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Governor of Texas