



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, as a champion and defender of human rights, New York State condemns human trafficking as a heinous crime that no person should have to experience – even one victim is too many; and

Whereas, New York State is committed to protecting the thousands of individuals who are impacted by human trafficking by continuing supportive programs and services for them, and by providing more educational, informational, and preventative resources; and

Whereas, the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking is responsible for agency collaborations, training, public awareness, identification of services, data collection, and recommendations, and last year, more members were added to the Task Force and their length of duty was extended so as to continue their work to assist survivors and potential victims of human trafficking; and

Whereas, communities across New York State welcome those in search of better lives in safe places, yet the increase in predatory traffickers in our state has impacted vulnerable populations of individuals who suffer as a result of criminal activity by their traffickers and who continue to be intimidated through the use of force, threats, and false promises; and

Whereas, through its human trafficking victim confirmation process established in 2007, New York State has identified a total of 2,688 survivors and collaborated with emergency services and supports to help them live safely, move forward, and achieve their goals; and

Whereas, New York State remains committed to strengthening programs to address discrimination, abuse, lack of housing, addiction, and mental health services to prevent trafficking of those who are at-risk; identifying and prosecuting perpetrators; protecting identified trafficked individuals; funding and supporting critical services that are survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive; and bolstering partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations; and

Whereas, identification and supportive services are essential to combat trafficking, the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking encourages all New Yorkers to participate in National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11, 2024, by wearing blue and sharing information about the resources and services available, including the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888), which is available 24/7 to assist those in dangerous circumstances that can lead to trafficking and other forms of exploitation; and

Whereas, throughout this month, we will continue to raise awareness of trafficking across our state in support of trafficked individuals, and to work to ensure police officers and prosecutors have the training and tools necessary to make New York State a place where traffickers will not succeed in carrying out vile acts that not only circumvent our criminal justice system, but egregiously violate fundamental human rights;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 2024 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this tenth day of
of January in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh