



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

- WHEREAS:** Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means, including force, abduction, fraud, or coercion, for an improper purpose, such as forced labor or sexual exploitations; and
- WHEREAS:** Human trafficking is present in all 159 counties throughout Georgia, with over half of victims trafficked by their own family and friends. The majority of victims enter trafficking at only 12-14 years of age; and
- WHEREAS:** Since 2019, Georgia has made great strides towards making the state a safe haven for survivors and hostile environment for traffickers by strengthening penalties for trafficking, empowering law enforcement at the state and local level, and granting survivors new rights to privacy and to pursue justice against those who profited off of them; and
- WHEREAS:** Since trafficking often hides in plain sight, operating in busy locations and online, one of the most important things Georgians can do to stop trafficking in their state is know how to recognize it when they see it and how to alert the proper authorities; and
- WHEREAS:** Free human trafficking awareness training is available online through the Georgians for Refuge, Action, Compassion, and Education (GRACE) Commission website. This training, mandatory for all state employees, has already helped trainees spot trafficking situations and notify authorities; and
- WHEREAS:** During Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Week, the State of Georgia encourages all its citizens to learn how they can do their part to stop trafficking in their communities. Together, we can put an end to modern-day slavery; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim January 23 – 29, 2022 as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Melinda Kipertovich*

CHIEF OF STAFF