

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

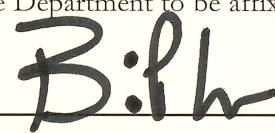
A PROCLAMATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

- 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 exploitation; and
- WHEREAS:** With the impact of human trafficking felt throughout Georgia, governments, law enforcement, private entities, and individuals are taking action to ensure those profiting from the pain of others face justice and survivors receive the help they need; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia has made great strides in the fight to end trafficking by strengthening penalties for traffickers and buyers, empowering law enforcement at the state and local level, and granting survivors new rights to privacy and to pursue justice against their abusers; and
- WHEREAS:** Led by First Lady Marty Kemp, the Georgians for Refuge, Action, Compassion, and Education (GRACE) Commission has advocated for these important policy changes, working with partners in the legislature to secure bipartisan support of these measures; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit and the Office of the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, along with federal and local law enforcement, have vigorously pursued justice by investigating and prosecuting traffickers and buyers, ensuring victims' voices are heard throughout the justice process; and
- WHEREAS:** Human trafficking often hides in plain sight, operating in busy locations and online, meaning 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 GRACE Commission website at gov.georgia.gov/first-lady/grace-commission. 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 Month, 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 2024, as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29th day of December in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST


CHIEF OF STAFF