

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH JANUARY 2026

WHEREAS, human trafficking is defined as the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of labor or commercial sexual exploitation. It is a public health risk and crime that harms the health and well-being of North Dakota's youth, adults, families and communities, occurring in plain sight in all sectors, including hospitality, agriculture and domestic work; and

WHEREAS, trafficking disproportionately affects marginalized individuals, particularly those subjected to abuse, violence, poverty, instability, social isolation and/or discrimination, including immigrants, refugees, women, people with disabilities, transgender individuals, people of color, youth and members of the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, a successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide effort that includes collaboration across sectors to ensure that services and programs are effective and meeting the needs of all survivors, creating environments where people are protected from human trafficking and other forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, the devastating impact of human trafficking – profound physical, economic, sexual and psychological harm to its victims – necessitates comprehensive strategies to combat it and provide support across all sectors of society, including stopping the demand for commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking, while holding accountable those who perpetrate these crimes; and


WHEREAS, in pursuit of the eradication of human trafficking, North Dakota is committed to ensuring that those impacted by human trafficking can receive trauma-informed services that are responsive to their individual needs, while aspiring to be a place of healing, opportunity, equity and justice; and

WHEREAS, January is recognized as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention month, an observance to uphold the inherent equality and freedom of all individuals, to foster legislative and societal protections for survivors and to promote public awareness and action against human trafficking in all its forms.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
January 2026, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH
in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR


ATTEST:
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE