

WHEREAS; human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, obtained, harbored, or transported through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of labor or sexual exploitation or when any commercial sex act involves a minor; and

WHEREAS; human trafficking can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, gender, or nationality, but vulnerable populations—such as youth who are homeless, unaccompanied, or runaways, LGBTQ youth, young people of color, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or kids involved in the child welfare system—are at a higher risk; and

WHEREAS; trafficking is pervasive in Wisconsin and across the nation, but due to its isolating and secretive nature, communities across the state are often unaware that trafficking exists within their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS; the long-lasting effects on the physical and emotional well-being of people who have experienced the manipulation and exploitation of human traffickers are immeasurable, and the state recognizes all survivors for their resilience and strength; and

WHEREAS; recognizing potential indicators of human trafficking, including, but not limited to, withdrawal from friends and family, behavioral changes, signs of mental or physical abuse, and lack of personal autonomy and control, can be crucial to identifying and aiding victims; and

WHEREAS; efforts at the state, county, and local levels are underway to address trafficking crimes and provide support to survivors so that they can begin to heal, as well as to generate awareness around the important work and accomplishments of those working to end human trafficking in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; combating human trafficking is a shared responsibility, and all Wisconsinites should educate themselves on how to recognize the signs of trafficking, report suspicious activities, and support survivors; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, along with other local, state, and national partners, in reaffirming its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all kids and families in communities throughout the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim January 2024 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 8th day of December 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State