

# STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

## Proclamation

*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;

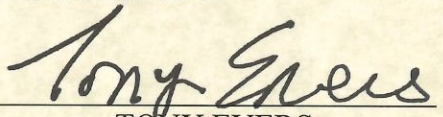
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim January 2024 as

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

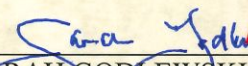
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.



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