



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness Month is recognized each January through educational events, community gatherings, and support groups; and

WHEREAS, forced labor generates an estimated \$236 billion in illegal profits worldwide each year; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Statewide Human Trafficking Hotline saw a 219% increase in tips, and in 2024, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) received 1,375 calls via their hotline to combat human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the TBI reported 514 reports of minor sex trafficking over the past year; and

WHEREAS, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 428 signals (calls, texts, etc.) from Tennessee, which led to the identification of 213 cases involving 446 victims; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of human trafficking and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

WHEREAS, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of human trafficking and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Tennessee passed legislation to ensure human traffickers would be punished to the fullest extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Tennessee passed a resolution directing the TBI to report on the state of human trafficking in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has dedicated more than \$16 million to nonprofits to combat human trafficking and remains committed to supporting victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, our State has a moral obligation to work to prevent human trafficking and to address its brutal and destructive effects; and

WHEREAS, our State recognizes January 11, 2026, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twelfth day of January 2026.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Vignatt

Secretary of State