



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking affects as many as 21 million people worldwide, including an estimated 5.5 million children who are trafficked for child labor and sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers are estimated to exploit an estimated 1.5 million victims in North America alone, despite growing awareness about this crime; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is committed to protecting the vulnerable and ending human trafficking through continued prevention, prosecution, education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is committed to sending a strong message to perpetrators that Tennessee is a zero tolerance State for all forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is committed to protecting victims' rights and restoring their dignity and freedom;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2016 as

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

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 twentieth day of October, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

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Secretary of State

