

Human Trafficking Prevention Month Resolution SAMPLE TEMPLATE
Provided by Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking
(copy and fill in the blanks)

WHEREAS, *_insert child welfare agency, service provider or NGO name,* we as a community strive to provide resources to empower self sufficiency, restore dignity, and support recovery from trauma for survivors of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, For more than two centuries, the United States has worked to protect human rights promoting a just and free society and advancing the dignity of all human beings. The government continues to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts to address human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Classified as a felony, human trafficking is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for the purpose of labor and commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, human trafficking cases have been reported in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and United States Territories; and

WHEREAS, The International Labour Organization (ILO) has reported that economic and food insecurity are directly linked to an increase of both forced child labor and child sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Since 2018, The United States Department of Labor reports an increase of 69% of children have been illegally employed and exploited. In the last fiscal year, the department found 835 companies it investigated employed more than 3,800 children in violation of United States labor laws; and

WHEREAS, The California Child Welfare Council found that anywhere from 50 percent to 80 percent of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking, are or were formerly involved with the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) 2022 Global Report, boys represent the fastest-growing segment of identified human trafficking victims and that gender norms and masculine stereotypes hinder identification of male trafficking victims. This false perception plays out in several ways that are damaging to boys and men who have experienced trafficking; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report highlights labor trafficking by forced criminality (LTFC), yet this problem remains under-identified. LTFC refers to all labor trafficking where the labor or services the victim is being forced, coerced, or defrauded into performing activities that could otherwise be classified as a crime. Because all LTFC victims have committed a crime, they are often misidentified as criminals, and often do not have access to the protections and services that would become accessible to them if they were appropriately

identified as victims. Victims of LTFC often do not self-identify and rarely report the crime to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, According to the ILO, of the total number of global human trafficking victims, 4,900,000 are women and girls in forced commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2013 Department of Justice study examining the race of sex trafficking victims, 40.4 percent were Black, 23.9 percent were Hispanic, and 4.3 percent were Asian; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Report, "Black Women and Girls: Sex Trafficking in the U.S." states that to better understand the high rates of sex trafficking among Black women and girls, research has indicated the continued sexualization of Black women and girls' bodies which has played out since slavery. The myths around Black women and girls' hypersexuality and the continued treatment of Black girls as older than their age must be explored when looking at the data surrounding the prevalent rates of domestic sex trafficking of Black girls; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, racial and ethnic minority groups, the LGBTQI+ community, and Indigenous populations are extremely vulnerable to exploitation due to social, legal, and cultural marginalization. Studies show that Native American women and girls are victims of human trafficking at a much higher rate compared to the overall population; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of State's 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report, meaningful inclusion of survivors as anti-trafficking experts must be further integrated across global anti-trafficking efforts and accepted as a norm. Partnership between governments, multilateral organizations, and survivors of human trafficking not only improves anti-trafficking efforts, but also dismantles the risk of misconceptions, shame, traumatization, and re-exploitation of survivors within their communities; —empowering survivors, promotes equity within organizations, and reduces vulnerability to re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, there has been an increased emphasis in the anti-human trafficking sector on the value of public health and rights-based approaches to addressing human trafficking. A public health approach to violence prevention is an effective way of ending violence by focusing on the health, safety, and well-being of the entire population, rather than a focus on individual instances of violence and punishment for crime; and

WHEREAS, The State of California is dedicated to protecting victims of human trafficking and ensuring they are not themselves criminalized. The State commits to continuing to collaborate with skilled professionals at the local, state, and national levels conducting investigation, collaborations, and trainings, organizing public outreach, and promoting awareness, and directly assisting victims of human trafficking; now, therefore be it.

WHEREAS, The *_city or county_* of *_insert location_* recognizes the need for greater awareness and accountability in regard to human trafficking; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, *_insert names/organizations of community leaders_*, do hereby proclaim January to be:

"National Human Trafficking Prevention Month"

in *_insert city or county_*.

We support the advocacy efforts of *_insert organizations or network name_*. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of *_insert location_*, California, on this *_insert date_* day of January, *_insert year_*.

Mayor/City/County Official Signatures

Date

Mayor/City/County Official Signatures

Date

This Resolution Template was adapted from the 2024 California Assembly Resolution which was revised by Survivor Leaders Jess Torres.