

Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that includes both sex and labor trafficking; and
- WHEREAS,** human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, transported or obtained for the purpose of commercial sex, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage or slavery through force, fraud or coercion; and
- WHEREAS,** victims of human trafficking are frequently members of vulnerable populations, such as domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, members of immigrant communities and homeless or runaway youth; and
- WHEREAS,** over the last several years, the Governor has signed laws such as House Bill 49 and Senate Bill 88 to stiffen criminal penalties for traffickers and add protection and services for victims; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2017, SB 42 was passed which created the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board; and
- WHEREAS,** in a report card released in 2016, Louisiana ranked first in the United States for its anti-trafficking laws; and
- WHEREAS,** in June 2021, SB 170 was passed to create the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention; and
- WHEREAS,** in October 2021, Louisiana was awarded its second multi-year million dollar federal grant to improve outcomes for children and youth victims of human trafficking; and
- WHEREAS,** state and local leaders are committed to increasing the public's awareness and ending human trafficking in the great state of Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim January 2023 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH
in the State of Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of January A. D., 2023.

John Bel Edwards
Governor

