



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has consistently championed freedom and equality for all of its people; and

Whereas, New York has long promoted human rights, and welcomed individuals from the world's most vulnerable populations to pursue economic opportunities without fear of exploitation; and

Whereas, although close to 500 survivors have been officially identified through New York State's human trafficking victim confirmation process and aggressive prosecutions have been pursued by district attorney's offices throughout the state, those suffering as a result of criminal activity on the part of their traffickers continue to be intimidated due to extreme fear, restriction of movement, and blocked access to services; and

Whereas, this year, New York State has further strengthened and expanded one of the most comprehensive state laws to combat human trafficking, and continues to innovate in ways to help and support victims, and aggressively prosecutes those who engage in human trade within our borders; and

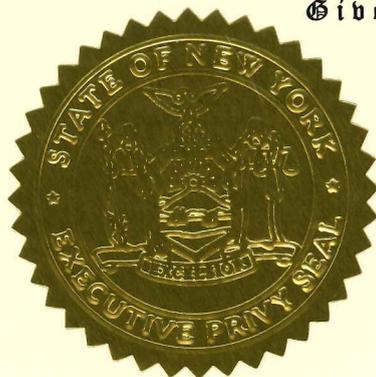
Whereas, throughout January we will illuminate the subject, welcome discussion and outreach through all corners of our state to support and serve victims, and energize our prosecutorial agencies and law enforcement offices to make New York a place where traffickers know they will not succeed at their practice, circumvent our criminal justice system, or ignore basic human rights;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 2016 as

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this seventh day  
of January in the year two thousand sixteen.



Governor

Secretary to the Governor