



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has always been a leader in ensuring freedom and equality for all people, and promoting human rights; and

Whereas, we welcome individuals from the world's most vulnerable populations to pursue economic opportunities without fear of exploitation; and

Whereas, human trafficking is a detestable crime and those subjected to the criminal activity of traffickers continue to suffer physically, mentally, and emotionally through intimidation by use of force, threats, and false promises; and

Whereas, since it was established in 2007, New York State's human trafficking victim confirmation program has identified 3,472 survivors, and connected them with emergency services and supports to help them live safely and move forward in achieving future goals; and

Whereas, New York State remains committed to strengthening programs to address discrimination, abuse, lack of housing, addiction, and mental health services for at-risk individuals to prevent trafficking and identify and prosecute perpetrators; protecting identified trafficked individuals; funding and supporting critical services that are survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive; and partnering with local, state, and federal agencies, fair and honest employers, and nonprofit organizations; and

Whereas, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed on January 11, 2026, and the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking encourages all New Yorkers to participate in awareness-raising activities and sharing information and outreach materials developed by the Task Force and to become familiar with the National Human Trafficking Hotline, which is available 24/7 to assist those in harm's way, as these prevention strategies are essential to combat trafficking, along with identification of trafficked persons and supportive services for them; and

Whereas, we will continue to address vulnerabilities and raise awareness of trafficking through all corners of our state, support and serve trafficked individuals, and work to provide police officers and prosecutors with the necessary training and tools to ensure that traffickers will not succeed in their crimes, circumvent our criminal justice system, or ignore basic human rights;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 2026 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 twelfth day  
of January in the year two thousand twenty-six.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor



Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh

