



SPONSOR: Rep. K. Williams & Rep. Michael Smith & Rep. Bush on behalf of all Representatives & Sen. Lockman & Sen. Poore & Sen. Richardson on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024 AS "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH" IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, Human Trafficking takes many forms, including forced marriage, forced labor, debt bondage, forced
2 commercial sexual exploitation and involuntary domestic servitude; and

3 WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Human Trafficking generates more than 10 billion dollars just in the United States annually; and

5 WHEREAS, there has been an 84% increase in persons prosecuted for Human Trafficking offenses since 2011 in
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, since 2020, there has been an 125% increase of recruitment into Human Trafficking through
8 Facebook and a 95% increase of recruitment on Instagram; and

9 WHEREAS, every 2 minutes a child is trafficked in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, there are over 300,000 children in the United States that are at high risk of being trafficked every day;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, 60% of trafficked children are in or were in the foster care system at some point; and

13 WHEREAS, the average age of a trafficked child is 12 years old, from the date of the first incident, their average
14 life span is just 7 years; and

15 WHEREAS, over 50% of Child Trafficking Victims are recruited and victimized by direct family members and
16 friends; and

17 WHEREAS, almost 300,000 children were legally married in the United States from 2000-2018, some of these
18 children were as young as 10 years old; and

19 WHEREAS, 96% of victims of police reported Human Trafficking are woman and girls, and 81% of persons
20 accused of Human Trafficking are male; and

21 WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2021 there were 1.1 million people living in modern day slavery conditions
22 within the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States is one of the largest consumers of goods at risk of being produced through forced
24 labor, importing more than \$144 Billion dollars' worth of goods per year; and

25 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor has identified 148 goods from 76 countries made by forced
26 and child labor; and

27 WHEREAS, there have been many efforts made by non-profits to assist in combatting and educating the public on
28 Human Trafficking; and

29 WHEREAS, in 2023 Zoe Ministries, completed 70 various community trainings on Human Trafficking with a
30 total of over 1,335 attendees and they are actively working to open Delaware's first and only residential home for girls who
31 have been trafficked; and

32 WHEREAS, between 2021-2023, Salvation Army of Delaware has provided training for 3,179 persons within our
33 communities by hosting 55 Human Trafficking Trainings/presentations. They have served 117 clients in the past 3 years
34 and served an additional 433 individuals that were vulnerable to being trafficked; and

35 WHEREAS, in 2023 Meet Me at the Well served 62 victims or potential victims of Human Trafficking. They
36 work to address needs such as unstable housing, substance abuse, low income, and access to mental health services; and

37 WHEREAS, while state policymakers have made significant progress in bringing awareness to the issue of Human
38 Trafficking in Delaware, more needs to be done to prevent Human Trafficking, identify victims and support them through
39 trauma-informed approaches, and combat the perpetrators of these crimes; and

40 WHEREAS, public awareness is essential to educating people about the signs and consequences of Human
41 Trafficking and in order to bring an end to the injustice suffered by the victims of this crime; and

42 WHEREAS, Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council will continue to bring together all stakeholders with the
43 same passion and goal to eradicate Human Trafficking activities in Delaware including community partners, service
44 providers, various levels of law enforcement, Department of Justice and policy level officials.

45 NOW, THEREFORE:

46 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
47 Senate concurring therein, that the members of the Delaware General Assembly hereby recognize the month of January
48 2024 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in order to bring awareness to the crime of Human Trafficking in this
49 State.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes January 2024 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Delaware.