



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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025 AS "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH" IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits individuals through forced labor, sexual
2 exploitation, and other forms of coercion, robbing them of their dignity and freedom; and

3 WHEREAS, human trafficking is the second largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world,
4 generating more than \$150 billion annually, with an estimated 27.6 million victims globally, including 1.1
5 million in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately 41% of child trafficking situations globally involved a family member as
7 the perpetrator; and

8 WHEREAS, since 2020, there has been a 125% increase of recruitment into human trafficking through
9 Facebook and a 95% increase of recruitment on Instagram; and

10 WHEREAS, boys represent the fastest-growing segment of identified human trafficking victims. The
11 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, released in
12 January 2023, notes that the percentage of boys identified as victims of human trafficking more than quintupled
13 between 2004 and 2020—a much larger increase than for men, women, or girls; and

14 WHEREAS, every two minutes, a child in the United States is trafficked, and over 300,000 children
15 nationwide are at high risk of being trafficked daily, with 60% of trafficked children having been in the foster
16 care system; and

17 WHEREAS, in familial trafficking cases, the average age of initial exploitation is 4 years old, while 13
18 years old is the average age of recruitment for the other types of child trafficking; and

19 WHEREAS, in the United States, kidnapping of children occurs in only an estimated 0.45 percent of
20 trafficking cases; which means that, while it does happen, it is rare; and

21 WHEREAS, in FY 24, the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
22 screened 114 youth at the report line. Of those screenings, 60 youth were determined to have clear concern for
23 juvenile trafficking and 30 youth were determined to have possible concern for juvenile trafficking; and

24 WHEREAS The National Human Trafficking Hotline received 865 signals from Delaware, leading to
25 the identification of 269 human trafficking cases and 611 victims, highlighting the ongoing and pervasive nature
26 of this crime in our communities; and

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

29 WHEREAS, the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC) has played a pivotal role in
30 uniting stakeholders, including law enforcement, social service agencies, non-profits, survivors, and
31 policymakers, to create a coordinated statewide response to human trafficking; and

32 WHEREAS, Delaware Anti Trafficking Action Council, continues to work diligently to develop and
33 enhance a comprehensive, statewide response plan to ensure offenders are held accountable and survivors have
34 equitable access to care, resources, and justice; and

35 WHEREAS public awareness is essential to educating people about the signs and consequences of
36 human trafficking and DATAC has disseminated over 6,000 public awareness signs throughout the state; and

37 WHEREAS Delaware must remain committed to seeking new funding opportunities to enhance its
38 capacity to combat human trafficking and provide critical support for survivors and prevention efforts.

39 NOW, THEREFORE:

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 153rd General Assembly of the State of
41 Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, that the members of the Delaware General Assembly hereby recognize
42 the month of January 2025 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in order to bring awareness to the crime
43 of human trafficking in this State.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes January 2025 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Delaware.