



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The crime of human trafficking, the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world, is a public safety and public health issue in which victims are exploited for profit and deprived of basic human rights, including but not limited to sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and Advocates for Human Rights estimate that between eight and twelve thousand people are involved in prostitution or sex trafficking in Minnesota every day. Trafficking victims in Minnesota come from around the nation and the world, with the average age of sex-trafficked children being 13 years old. Sex trafficking is not new to Minnesota or confined to just the Twin Cities metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is one of only a few states that has passed legislation, which treats children who are involved in prostitution as victims rather than criminals. The Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2006, has been instrumental in enacting strong legislation, which addresses the problem of human trafficking, and continues to convene stakeholders to seek solutions; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is in the forefront of efforts to prevent human trafficking, but more can and must be done. Discussions continue among the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, members of the Ramsey County Commission, and many other municipal, county, and state agency leaders, to find new methods of preventing human trafficking and all forms of modern day slavery.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of January 24-31, 2013 as:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 18th day of January.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE