

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Every January, national attention is focused on human trafficking awareness, a form of modern-day slavery; an assault on human rights, that affects millions of people worldwide; and
- Whereas,** it is estimated that over 25 million children and adults are trafficked annually, where seven in 10 victims are suspected to be women and young girls; and
- Whereas,** human trafficking is estimated to generate well over \$100 billion annually worldwide, making it second only to drug trafficking, where a significant correlation between the two crimes exist; and
- Whereas,** it is estimated that the United States has tens of thousands of victims annually, while there are hundreds of thousands more children, youth, and vulnerable adults at risk of being trafficked every day; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia experiences the harmful impact of human trafficking, where the substance abuse crisis has fueled the prevalence of victims, many of them children and young adults, especially those with current or previous child welfare involvement; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia is committed to combating human trafficking in every form, and supporting every victim by providing critical services and resources to overcome the devastating effects left in their wake by traffickers; and
- Whereas,** continued education and year-round awareness are critical to successfully eradicate human trafficking in our great state and around the world; and
- Whereas,** survivors and those combating human trafficking deserve community and public recognition, respect, and support for their continued efforts to serve and protect our most vulnerable West Virginians.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *January 2024* as:

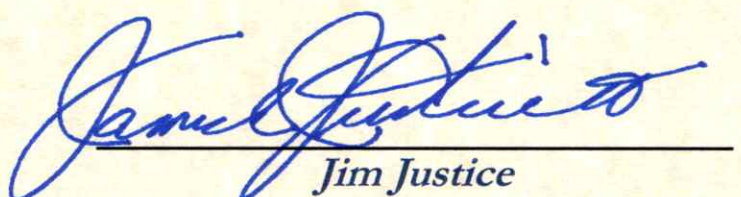
Human Trafficking Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State