

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January 2024

WHEREAS, human trafficking stands as a contemporary manifestation of slavery, wherein perpetrators derive profits from controlling and exploiting adults and children for labor and sex through force, fraud, or coercion; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking represents the fastest-growing and second-largest criminal industry globally; and

WHEREAS, the United States is widely acknowledged as a destination country for human trafficking. Federal reports estimate that 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States annually; and

WHEREAS, on a state-wide level, California reported 1,300 cases of human trafficking in 2021, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; and

WHEREAS, locally, Alameda County stands out as the third highest "hot spot" for human trafficking in the United States; emphasizing the pressing need for heightened awareness, collaborative efforts, and strategic initiatives to combat this pervasive issue within our community; and

WHEREAS, although human trafficking can affect anyone, it disproportionately targets racial and ethnic minorities, women and girls, LGBTQIA+ individuals, vulnerable migrants, and other historically marginalized and underserved communities in our region; and

WHEREAS, other significant risk factors include recent relocation, substance abuse, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system, and/or being a runaway or unhoused youth; and

WHEREAS, in Alameda County, 61% of human trafficking victims are African-American, 15% Latino/a, and 12% Caucasian, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Additionally, more than 55% of trafficking victims in Alameda County were foster youth at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office is deeply committed to addressing the impact human trafficking has on our residents and surrounding communities and to safeguarding public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and community partners, has shattered the silence surrounding human trafficking, preventing numerous instances of abuse and exploitation, and remains dedicated to treating trafficking survivors with compassion and dignity while providing comprehensive services to support their journey of healing and empowerment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California does hereby recognize the month of January 2024 as *National Human Trafficking Prevention Month* and reaffirms its commitment to supporting and protecting human trafficking survivors and bringing offenders to justice by ensuring a comprehensive system of safety and support for our community.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

DAVID HAUBERT, Vice-President
Supervisor, First District

ELISA MÁRQUEZ
Supervisor, Second District

LENA TAM
Supervisor, Third District

KEITH CARSON
Supervisor, Fifth District