



Franklin
COUNTY KANSAS

EST. 1855

Proclamation

24-01

Whereas, human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is one of the largest and fastest-growing criminal industries in the world. It is based on recruiting, harboring, and transporting people for the purpose of exploitation; and

Whereas, millions of men, women, and children around the globe, including here in Franklin County, Kansas, are subject to modern-day slavery: the cruel, inhumane practice of human trafficking; and

Whereas, sex trafficking and labor trafficking occur in Kansas, and both adults and children of any gender, socio-economic status, age, race, sexual orientation, or geographic location can become victimized; and

Whereas, human trafficking includes sexual, verbal, emotional, and physical abuse and exploitation, and all forms of abuse carry long-term complex trauma implications; and

Whereas, Kansas human trafficking laws define commercial exploitation of children, which does not require a showing of force, fraud, threat, or coercion and references the existing statutory definition of human trafficking and aggravated human trafficking; and

Whereas, the effects of human trafficking reach far beyond its victims and perpetrators, causing disruption in our schools, places of work, and neighborhoods; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Franklin County, Kansas, proclaims the month of January 2024 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

And urges all its citizens to speak out against sex and labor trafficking and exploitation, to support survivors of these heinous crimes, to encourage community leaders to hold offenders accountable, and to make preventable efforts a priority by hosting events, creating policies at work, school, and home, and by supporting and participating in programs designed to reduce and eventually eliminate human trafficking as a societal problem.

Signed this 3rd day of January, 2024.

Janne Dickinson, Commission Chair

Attested and Recorded this 3rd day of January, 2024

Janet Paddock, County Clerk