



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:* The pervasive issue of human trafficking, which involves the exploitation of individuals through force, fraud or coercion and affects communities nationwide, including here in Bellevue; and
- Whereas:* The U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimates that millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide each year, with thousands within the United States alone; and
- Whereas:* Human trafficking can affect anyone, but it disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups such as abuse survivors, those in poverty or unstable living situations, Indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities and undocumented immigrants. Traffickers also exploit instability from natural disasters or conflicts, highlighting the need for equity and justice in anti-trafficking efforts; and
- Whereas:* Bellevue is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity and freedom of all individuals, and our city supports efforts to educate the public, enhance awareness and strengthen prevention initiatives to eliminate this heinous crime; and
- Whereas:* The City of Bellevue emphasizes that everyone has the power to help make a difference in combating all forms of human trafficking by gaining knowledge to recognize, report and fight these crimes; and
- Whereas:* During National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the City of Bellevue encourages all residents to learn more about human trafficking, advocate for the rights of victims and engage in meaningful actions to prevent and address trafficking in all its forms.

Now, therefore I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **January 2025** as:

National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

in Bellevue and urge all residents to join in the fight against human trafficking by raising awareness, supporting survivors and promoting a culture of vigilance and advocacy to end this violation of human rights.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue