



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: human trafficking is a pervasive crime involving 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, including thousands within the United States; and

Whereas: human trafficking can affect anyone, but it disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations such as survivors of abuse, individuals experiencing poverty or housing instability, Indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities and undocumented immigrants. Traffickers also exploit instability caused by natural disasters or conflict, underscoring the need for equity and justice in anti-trafficking efforts; and

Whereas: the City of Bellevue is committed to protecting the safety, dignity and freedom of all individuals and supports efforts to educate the public, raise awareness and strengthen prevention initiatives to eliminate this crime. These efforts are accomplished through the Bellevue Police Department and its Human Trafficking Unit; and

Whereas: the City of Bellevue recognizes that everyone has a role in combating human trafficking by learning how to identify warning signs, report suspected activity and support prevention and response efforts; and

Whereas: National Human Trafficking Awareness Month provides an opportunity to recognize the scope and impact of human trafficking, honor survivors and reaffirm our shared responsibility to prevent exploitation and protect human dignity.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **January 2026** as

National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

in Bellevue and urge all residents to remain informed, report suspected trafficking, support survivor-centered services and contribute to community efforts that help prevent human trafficking and uphold human rights.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue