



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of adults and children are trafficked worldwide – including in the United States; and
- Whereas:** The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 established a commitment to combating human trafficking domestically and abroad; and
- Whereas:** Every year since 2010, the President has dedicated National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January to raise awareness about human trafficking and to educate the public about how to identify and prevent this crime; and
- Whereas:** Traffickers often take advantage of instability caused by natural disasters or conflict to exploit others. In addition, human trafficking disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations such as American Indian/Alaska Native communities, LGBTQI+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, undocumented immigrants, youth experiencing homelessness and low-income persons, illustrating the importance of centering equity and justice in the efforts to combat trafficking; and
- Whereas:** During this month, we honor the efforts of governments, organizations, anti-trafficking entities, law enforcement officials, survivor advocates, communities of faith, businesses, and private residents here in Bellevue and around the world who are raising awareness and working to stop human trafficking; 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 reject these crimes.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **January 2023 as**

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

in Bellevue, Washington, and urge residents to explore resources available, including [20 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking](#) from the U.S. Department of State. If you or someone you know is a victim of trafficking, call the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to 233733.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue