



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Human trafficking is a nationwide public health and civil rights crisis, with victims and survivors in every city and community; and

WHEREAS: Human trafficking includes both forced labor and sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS: In the U.S., it is estimated that two to four million victims are being trafficked, and of the 75% being exploited for sex, almost half are children, and most are women and girls; and

WHEREAS: Victims come from all demographics, and traffickers target individuals who, for a variety of reasons, are vulnerable; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's Safe Harbor Law/No Wrong Door ensures young people who are sexually exploited are treated as victims and survivors, not criminals. Services are available to help young people who are experiencing or have experienced exploitation; and

WHEREAS: In Minnesota, the average age of survivors served under Safe Harbor was 17. A slightly higher percentage of youth served were in greater Minnesota with 54% compared to the metro area with 46%. Most survivors were female at 91%, while 6% identified as male and 3% as transgender, gender non-conforming and other. More than half of survivors were people of color; and

WHEREAS: The Walz-Flanagan Administration launched the first meeting of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Task Force as part of their commitment to end violence against and trafficking of Indigenous women; and

WHEREAS: All communities must seek to prevent human trafficking before it can occur by promoting safe, healthy, and supportive environments and changing the culture of acceptance of human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, January 11, 2020, as:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 6th day of January.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Pimm".

SECRETARY OF STATE