

A Proclamation Submitted by Legislators Dixon, Lorigo, Rath, Mills,  
Savage, Baskin, Loughran, Bruso, Hardwick, Meyers & Miller-Williams

# STATE OF NEW YORK

## LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

### BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 17, 2019 A.D.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT** *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

***Proclaiming January 2019 as  
"Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month" in Erie County***

**WHEREAS,** *the United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the unalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and*

**WHEREAS,** *human trafficking is modern-day slavery, claiming nearly 40 million victims worldwide, and found in the United States most often involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act; and*

**WHEREAS,** *this horrific crime denies human dignity and freedom, and fuels organized crime where annually human trafficking generates billions in profits, and is second to drug trafficking as the most profitable transnational crime; and*

**WHEREAS,** *even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and*

**WHEREAS,** *increased community education on how to identify victims of human trafficking along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those affected by these criminal actions can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as help diminish the number of future victims; and*

**WHEREAS,** *every community organization, faith community, business, family and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working to protect the youth from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking; and by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Erie County joins State and national efforts to provide community outreach and education, legislative advocacy, training, promotion of services to survivors of human trafficking, and collaboration with law enforcement.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT, RESOLVED,** *that the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to proclaim the month of January 2019 as "Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month" in Erie County, and encourage all citizens to become more informed on this problem, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, and to work towards solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our community. If you see something that doesn't look right, take action and call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888.*