

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and is a crime against humanity that violates most basic human rights and deprives victims of their freedom; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking affects as many as 21 million people worldwide, including an estimated 5.5 million children who are trafficked for child labor and sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers are estimated to exploit an estimated 1.5 million victims in North America alone, despite growing awareness about this crime; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is committed to protecting the vulnerable and ending human trafficking through continued prevention, prosecution, education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is committed to sending a strong message to perpetrators that Mississippi is a zero tolerance State for all forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is committed to protecting victims' rights and restoring their dignity and freedom:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim January 2016 as

NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson on the 21st day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fifteen, and in the anniversary of the United States of America, the two hundred and fortieth.



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR