

Trump Calls on Americans to Lead Fight to End Human Trafficking

On Dec. 31, 2019, President Donald Trump declared the month of January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

In his signed statement, President Trump issued a challenge to every person in the U.S. to join the fight to end human trafficking.

“I call upon industry associations, law enforcement, private businesses, faith-based and other organizations of civil society, schools, families and all Americans to recognize our vital roles in ending all forms of modern slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities aimed at ending and preventing all forms of human trafficking.”

In other words, every person has a responsibility to do their part to end the tragedy of human trafficking.

First, we must clearly be able to identify and understand what constitutes human trafficking.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is the means by which individuals are forcibly or fraudulently coerced into some type of labor or sex act. However, sex trafficking is the most commonly reported – with 70% of female victims being trafficked specifically for sexual exploitation.

The common belief is that human trafficking only takes place in large cities or outside of the United States. But, In Our Backyard, an organization that has worked tirelessly for the

past 10 years to eradicate sex trafficking, reports that trafficking occurs in every zip code in America.

The Department of Health and Human Services reports that human trafficking is the fastest growing enterprise in the world. This industry generates a profit of more than \$150 billion per year, as reported by the U.S. Department of State.

Statistics show the enormity of the problem, especially in relation to sex trafficking.

–The U.S. Department of Justice reports that one child is trafficked for sexual exploitation reasons every two minutes.

–A21, a non-profit organization seeking to rescue trafficked humans, reports that millions are in bondage to trafficking around the world. Only about 1% of them are ever rescued.

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