

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250012)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing January 2025 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights and a form of modern-day slavery that exploits individuals for forced labor, commercial sexual activity, and a variety of other reasons; and

WHEREAS, According to the International Labor Organizations (ILO), an estimated 27.6 million people worldwide endure human trafficking, disproportionately affecting people experiencing vulnerabilities such as poverty and housing insecurity and unduly targeting women and children; and

WHEREAS, According to the ILO, an estimated \$236 billion is generated in illicit profits annually and human trafficking is placed third among illicit international business, behind only drugs and weapons, and some researchers believe it is the fastest-growing activity of transnational criminal organizations; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of State reports that the U.S. is both a source and destination country for human trafficking, with major metropolitan areas, including Philadelphia, serving as hubs due to their size, accessibility, and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified over 275 trafficking cases in 2023, underscoring the persistent and urgent need for spreading education, prevention, and intervention efforts; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia, known as the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection, has a responsibility to protect all residents and visitors by fostering awareness, collaboration, and action to combat human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia will proudly host significant events in the coming years, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 250th anniversary of America's independence on July 4, 2026, which are anticipated to draw thousands of visitors to the City; and

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WHEREAS, While these events present unparalleled opportunities for civic pride, they pose potential challenges, including increased risks for human trafficking, necessitating proactive measures to safeguard residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement, community members, nonprofits, and organizations such as the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition, chaired by Covenant House and includes the Nationalities Service Center, the Salvation Army, Dawn's Place, and Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church's award-winning She's My Sister Ministry work tirelessly to prevent trafficking, support survivors, and bring perpetrators to justice; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that traffickers intentionally operate in secrecy, using methods designed to evade law enforcement and remain untraceable, it is vital that individuals are equipped with the necessary education, through public awareness, that empowers individuals to identify the signs of trafficking and foster a community committed to eradicating this injustice; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia commits to continuing collaboration with local and national organizations to implement measures that protect vulnerable populations in their daily life and during major events, ensuring that the City remains a safe and welcoming place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes January 2025 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the City of Philadelphia and commits to the shared responsibility of protecting and uplifting those at risk, supporting and amplifying the voices of victims of trafficking, and fostering a safe and prosperous City for all.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-third day of January, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Ahmad

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Ahmad, Gilmore Richardson, Phillips Jones, Lozada, Brooks, O'Rourke, Driscoll and Squilla