



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

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

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking affects as many as 27 million people worldwide, including an estimated two million children who are trafficked for child labor and sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers target men, women, and children, both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, isolating them from society and supportive networks, and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain; and

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking suffer emotional, psychological and physical horrors at the hands of their captors who instill fear to keep them enslaved; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today, and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers view Florida as one of the most attractive destinations and transit points for their victims, and Florida accounts for the third-highest call volume to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; and

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

WHEREAS, Floridians are committed to sending a strong message to perpetrators that Florida is a zero tolerance state for all forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Floridians are committed to protecting victims' rights, and restoring their dignity and freedom; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing January 2013 as *Human Trafficking Awareness Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 21st day of December, in the year two thousand twelve.


Governor