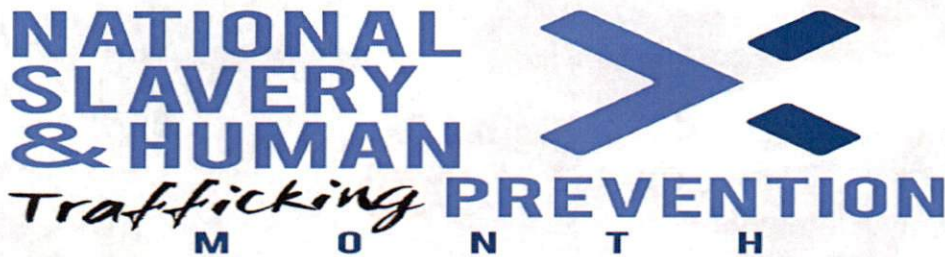


January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness/Prevention Month



National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month Proclamation,

January 2021

WHEREAS, Human trafficking erodes personal dignity and destroys the moral fabric of society. It is an affront to humanity that tragically reaches all parts of the world, including Barbour County, where people of every age, gender, race, religion, and nationality are devastated by this grave offense, and

WHEREAS, During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to eradicate this horrific injustice; and

WHEREAS, Trafficking crimes are perpetrated by transnational criminal enterprises, gangs, and cruel individuals including family members and friends. Through force, fraud, coercion, and sexual exploitation of minors, traffickers rob countless individuals of their dignity and freedom, splinter families, and threaten the safety of our communities. In all its forms, human trafficking is an intolerable blight on society dedicated to freedom, individual rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, it is reported by the White House that by some estimates, as many as 24.9 million people -- adults and children — are trapped in a form of modern slavery around the world. Human traffickers exploit others through forced labor, domestic servitude, or commercial sex, and traffickers profit from their victims' horrific suffering. We remain relentless in our resolve to bring perpetrators to justice, to protect survivors and help them heal, and to prevent further victimization and destruction of innocent lives; and

WHEREAS, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 criminalized human trafficking at the federal level and West Virginia amended anti-trafficking legislation in 2017, creating a task force against human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, more awareness and education is crucial to eradicating human trafficking in our communities, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking awareness day will be observed on January 11, 2021, in municipalities across the country, by wearing blue, as a way to educate the public and raise awareness about human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, The Barbour County Commission is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Barbour County and the United States to observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, David Strait, Jamie Carpenter, and Susie Cvechko, Commissioners for Barbour County, West Virginia, do hereby proclaim January 2021 as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH in Barbour County and applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, police officers, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about ~~stalking~~ human trafficking.

Signature:







Dated: January 4, 2021

Presented by Centers Against Violence and the Barbour County Prosecutor's Office