

Before the Board of County Commissioners Martin County, Florida A Proclamation

Recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Martin County, Florida

Whereas, human trafficking is a 150 billion dollar global business and is a form of modern day slavery in which human beings are controlled, abused and exploited for profit through labor and sex; and

Whereas, children have become the primary target of traffickers and predators as a result of online child exploitation, one of the fastest growing crimes in the world according to the United Nations, Interpol and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and

Whereas, human trafficking and online child sexual exploitation is happening in our own backyards, with arrests documented in Martin County this year, and Florida ranks #3 in the nation for human trafficking hotline calls; and

Whereas, local agencies, organizations, educators, business leaders, law enforcement and faith leaders are connecting to bring an end to this horror of enslaving and abusing children and adults by raising awareness and equipping citizens to provide tips to local law enforcement; and

Whereas, Florida Faith Alliance is working to alert Martin County to the immediate crisis and the need for all to become educated through a January awareness presentation presented by U-ACT and Florida Faith Alliance, in cooperation with the Martin County School District, Martin County Sheriff's Office and other local leaders.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that January is recognized as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Further, the Board calls upon our residents to attend the awareness presentation and become educated to help eliminate human trafficking.

Presented this Twenty-seventh Day of January 2026

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

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