

City of Vancouver, Washington

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Human trafficking involves recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for some type of labor act and/or commercial sexual exploitation; and
- WHEREAS, Human trafficking involves the commercial sexual exploitation and/or labor of persons of any age where force, fraud, or coercion exist and often unequally intersect with race, class and income; and
- WHEREAS, Because there is perceived shame in what has happened, most victims do not reach out for help, or they cannot reach out for help due to circumstances, so the surrounding community is unaware of what is happening; and
- WHEREAS, January 2011 marked the first National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month; we continue to bring awareness to this issue until it is ended; and
- WHEREAS, The city of Vancouver remains committed to protecting the rights of those who are exploited while also holding traffickers, exploiters, and buyers accountable for the harm they cause; and
- WHEREAS this day, and this month, serves as an opportunity to recognize the inherent strength and relational connectivity of youth in our community and how they have the potential to become powerful advocates for their very own friends. It is our youth who recognize that their friends are being targeted, groomed, and exploited by people who see them as nothing more than products to be sold, it is also our youth who have the power to stand up and declare "My Friends Are Not For Sale."
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the 6th day of January as:

" National Human Trafficking Prevention Month "

in the City of Vancouver and call upon the people of Vancouver to recognize the vital role we can play in ending modern slavery and reaffirm our commitment to increasing awareness and education on human trafficking.
support a more comprehensive response to prevent and respond to human trafficking.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 6th day of January 2025.

Anne McEnery-Ogle
ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR