

## 2025 RES-298

### RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2026 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, January 1, 2026, marks the beginning of Human Trafficking Prevention Month, which has been observed in the United States since 2010 to raise awareness about human trafficking and empower individuals, organizations, and communities to take action to prevent and respond to it; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking can affect individuals of any race, age, or gender. However, certain groups, such as those who have experienced abuse, sexual violence, poverty, unstable housing, homelessness, or involvement in the child welfare system, face a higher risk of exploitation and coercion; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has received 3,999 signals, identified 1,117 cases of human trafficking, and identified 2,212 victims of human trafficking from Wisconsin since its inception in 2007; and according to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, there were 339 allegations of child sex trafficking involving 304 children in 2023, underscoring the need for continued vigilance, effective prevention efforts, and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 theme— “Stronger Connections. Stronger Futures.”—emphasizes the importance of fostering everyday connections among individuals, families, neighbors, and community members so that the foundations of exploitation cannot be laid and warning signs of trafficking are more likely to be recognized and addressed; and

**WHEREAS**, effective prevention starts long before exploitation, through investment in upstream community support systems, addressing poverty and housing instability, strengthening protective factors for youth, and expanding trauma-informed services that reduce vulnerability and pathways to trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, effective prevention of human trafficking requires collaboration among elected officials, law enforcement, social service providers, healthcare, business, education, and community organizations to strengthen public trust, enhance safety, eliminate demand, and implement coordinated prevention and response efforts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors commends Project RESPECT, a program of ARC Community Services, Inc., of Madison, for providing vital services to survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, empowering survivors, promoting prevention, fostering leadership among individuals with lived experience, and affirming that all survivors deserve support and dignity regardless of their circumstances.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month and calls upon all community members to build strong connections, look out for one another, and actively support local organizations that prevent human trafficking and help survivors reclaim their lives.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk