



**BY THE PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PROCLAMATION
HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH
JANUARY 2023**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of slavery that can affect anyone and particularly victimizes vulnerable populations and negatively impacts our communities; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, transported, or obtained for the purpose of commercial sex, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or slavery through force, fraud, or coercion, or if the victim has not reached the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking denies freedom to 24.9 million people in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, women and girls are disproportionately affected by modern slavery, accounting for 28.7 million, or 71 percent of modern slavery victims; and

WHEREAS, the International Labor Organization estimates that human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide; and that \$99 billion is generated from forced sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Human Trafficking Council and the 2021 Youth Experiences Survey have found the average age of entry into sex trafficking for Arizona youth is 13 and 16 for labor trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Youth Experiences Survey found that two out of every five participants experienced at least one form of human exploitation; and

WHEREAS, youth who have experienced sex trafficking are significantly more likely to have experienced a multitude of challenges such as mental health struggles, Substance Use Disorder and significant trauma prior to having been trafficked; and

WHEREAS, Arizona policymakers have worked diligently to combat human trafficking through the adoption of laws prohibiting and preventing human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Arizona Human Trafficking Council has made significant strides in the areas of public awareness, victim services, data collection, and training in order to protect Arizona against this crime; and

WHEREAS, Arizona is committed to ensuring it is a zero-tolerance state for any form of human exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Arizona is committed to protecting victims' rights and restoring their freedom and dignity.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim January 2023 as **"Human Trafficking Prevention Month"**. Proclaimed this 25th day of January, 2023.



ATTEST:

Jeff Serdy, Chairman, District 5

Jeffrey McClure, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Kevin Cavanaugh, District 1

Mike Goodman, District 2

Natasha Kennedy, Clerk of the Board

Stephen Q. Miller, District 3