



Joint Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout the world, Sunday, January 11, 2015 has been designated as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, to annually bring awareness to this criminal industry; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for commercial sex or labor; and

WHEREAS, trafficking victims can be men or women, boys or girls, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals. The average age for girls to enter the commercial trafficking trade is 12-14 years of age and the average for boys is 11-13 years of age; and

WHEREAS, each year as many as 100,000-300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked in the United States; and

WHEREAS, traffickers may target young victims through social media websites, telephone chat lines, shopping malls and after school programs; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world tied with the illegal arms industry after drug dealing and is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a criminal element in Whatcom County.

NOW, THEREFORE DO WE, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, County Executive for Whatcom County proclaim January 11, 2015 as:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County. We encourage all citizens to work together to promote awareness of human trafficking.

Signed this 8th day of January 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelli Linville", written over a horizontal line.

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Louws", written over a horizontal line.

Jack Louws, County Executive
County of Whatcom

