

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 30, 2016, as World Day against Trafficking in Persons in the State of New York

WHEREAS, World Day against Trafficking in Persons is an official United Nations observance held on July 30th of every year; it was established in 2013 by the UN General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The observance focuses on raising awareness of human trafficking and the importance of stopping it; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is the trade of humans; international conventions condemn it as a grave violation of human rights; the purposes of trafficking in humans include, but are not limited to, sexual slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, servitude, forced marriage, removal of organs etc.; trade in people can occur both within a victim's country of origin and abroad; and

WHEREAS, At any given time, about 2.5 million people are affected by human trafficking; almost every country in the world is involved in trafficking, whether as a country of origin, destination or transit for human trade victims; and

WHEREAS, World Day against Trafficking in Persons aims to raise awareness of the situation of men, women and children who have fallen victims to human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights; and

WHEREAS, New York State, a leading entry, transit and destination point for trafficking victims, is committed to the abolition of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Trafficking victims experience a host of health and mental health-related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been trafficked; and

WHEREAS, Each year, 15,000 to 18,000 people are trafficked into the United States, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, The demand for cheap labor and for prostitution has made trafficking in persons a worldwide industry that generates \$32 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that over 100,000 American children and youth are victims of sex trafficking; buying children for sex is child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of human trafficking by the public, professionals, and victims themselves, and can act as a catalyst to promote long-term prevention and abolition of this form of modern-day slavery; and

WHEREAS, Survivors of human trafficking have first-hand knowledge of the trauma and severe violations that occur in trafficking situations, but also have a deep understanding of necessary solutions for prevention and response; and

WHEREAS, Listening to survivors and fostering survivor leadership allows survivors to connect with their strength and resilience and is critical in the fight to end human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 30, 2016, as World Day against Trafficking in Persons in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition.

