Assembly Resolution No. 828

**BY:** M. of A. DeStefano

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 11, 2026, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Human trafficking, also referred to as trafficking in persons, is a pervasive and insidious crime that encompasses both forced labor and sex trafficking and continues to rob millions of individuals around the world of their fundamental rights, freedom, and dignity; and

**WHEREAS,** January 11th has been recognized across the United States as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, a time to raise awareness about this heinous crime and to recommit to efforts to eradicate human trafficking in all its forms; and

**WHEREAS,** Since 2010, each January has been designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month by Presidential Proclamation, reinforcing the responsibility of all governments, institutions, and individuals to help prevent human trafficking, protect its victims, and prosecute perpetrators; and

**WHEREAS,** There are an estimated 27.6 million people - adults and children - currently subjected to human trafficking worldwide, including within the United States and the State of New York, with traffickers exploiting people in both hidden and visible ways, taking advantage of conflict, displacement, economic hardship, and crises such as natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** Traffickers use coercion, fraud, and force to compel their victims into labor or sexual exploitation, causing lifelong trauma and suffering while enriching transnational criminal networks and threatening both public safety and national security; and

**WHEREAS,** In response, countries across the globe, including the United States, have worked to implement the internationally recognized "3P" paradigm - prevention of the crime, protection of victims, and prosecution of traffickers - as outlined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, also known as the Palermo Protocol; and

**WHEREAS,** As of 2024, 178 countries are parties to the Palermo Protocol, having committed to taking concerted steps to criminalize all forms of trafficking, protect victims, and cooperate internationally to dismantle trafficking networks; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite widespread international and domestic legal frameworks to address trafficking, the practice persists, and combating it requires continued public awareness, vigilant enforcement, survivor-centered support, and community engagement at every level of government and civil society; and

**WHEREAS,** National Human Trafficking Awareness Day serves as a powerful annual reminder that all people - including educators, health professionals, service providers, law enforcement, businesses, and everyday citizens - have a role to play in identifying and responding to trafficking and supporting survivors on their path to healing and justice; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 11, 2026, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the State of New York, in alignment with national observance, to raise awareness of the widespread nature of human trafficking, honor the resilience of survivors, and reaffirm New York's commitment to ending this grave violation of human rights; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.