

# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** human trafficking violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of their freedom; and
- WHEREAS,** human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage, and other methods of slavery; and
- WHEREAS,** an estimated 2.5 million people are in forced labor at any given time as a result of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation; and
- WHEREAS,** traffickers often prey on people hoping for a better life, lacking employment opportunities, having an unstable home life, or with a history of sexual abuse. Victims of trafficking can be both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, including men, women and an estimated 1.2 million children; and
- WHEREAS,** 95% of human trafficking victims experience physical or sexual violence as a result of being trafficked; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Seattle has been a leader in promoting awareness of human trafficking, investigation and prosecution of traffickers, and developing interventions and services for victims of human trafficking. Starting this year, the City will provide additional trainings so that city employees can better identify and address human trafficking:

*NOW, THEREFORE I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JANUARY 2015 TO BE, IN OUR CITY*

## **Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

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CITY OF SEATTLE

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Mayor Edward B. Murray  
City of Seattle

