

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND
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Proclaiming July 30 as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed July 30 as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness about the crimes of human trafficking and to promote and protect the rights of trafficking victims. This day serves as a global call to action for governments, institutions, and communities to strengthen efforts to prevent trafficking, protect vulnerable populations, and support survivors.

Human trafficking remains one of the most egregious human rights violations of our time, impacting individuals across all backgrounds and communities. It includes the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit people for labor or commercial sex, often targeting the most vulnerable members of society, including children, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people experiencing homelessness or poverty.

Trafficking occurs in a wide range of settings, from private homes to hotels, factories, farms, construction sites, restaurants, and online platforms. Traffickers may be strangers or trusted individuals such as employers, partners, or family members.

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Communities that have historically experienced systemic inequality and social disconnection are disproportionately impacted.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has committed to shifting to a comprehensive public health approach that addresses the root causes of exploitation, promotes prevention and early intervention, reduces vulnerability, and expands equitable access to survivor-centered services. A response grounded in prevention, harm reduction, and the recognition that system involvement itself can compound trauma, disrupt development, and undermine long-term stability for survivors is what the community, including survivors, young people, their families, and the community-based organizations that serve them, has told us they want and need.

Los Angeles County recognizes that survivors of human trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence have too often been criminalized for acts committed as a direct result of their victimization, creating barriers to safety, healing, housing, employment, education, and long-term stability. We must continue to advance policies that address the root causes of exploitation and protect the dignity of every individual, while ensuring supportive services and supports are available and accessible for those in need.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons provides an opportunity to reaffirm Los Angeles County's commitment to preventing human trafficking, supporting survivors, strengthening coordinated community responses, and investing in the services, housing, healthcare, legal advocacy, education, and economic opportunities that help individuals recover and thrive.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim July 30, 2026, as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons; and

2. Continue to raise awareness, advance prevention, and support survivors of human trafficking through policy, services, and community partnerships.

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