



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING JANUARY 2026 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, "human trafficking" is an umbrella term referring to a crime where force, fraud or coercion is used to compel a person to perform labor, services or commercial sex; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a pervasive, hidden crime that is difficult to recognize but can often be identified through various indicators, such as persons not being paid for work, appearing afraid, exhibiting signs of unaddressed injury or illness, or not being able to speak or travel by themselves; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers often target people who appear vulnerable to exploitation by appearing vulnerable due to factors that the Arapahoe County Departments of Community Resources and Human Services aim to address, such as poverty, housing insecurity, or addiction; and

WHEREAS, the 18th Judicial District, which serves Arapahoe County, actively condemns human trafficking, has issued one of the nation's most severe human trafficking sentences and continues to fight against this crime in our community; and

WHEREAS, the 18th Judicial District participates annually in Operation Cross Country to locate and rescue victims of trafficking and commercial sex exploitation, resulting in the identification of child victims of sex trafficking and recovery of missing or endangered children; and

WHEREAS, the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services works with the 18th Judicial District and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office to identify and rectify instances of human trafficking within Arapahoe County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledges that human trafficking often disproportionately impacts the most marginalized community members, including people of color, undocumented immigrants, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQIA+ and youth involved in child welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim January 2026 as Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention month and we encourage all citizens of Arapahoe County to educate yourselves about human trafficking and how you can help prevent it.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields